AS IF HE COULD RESIST J-LO!

IN PARKER, JASON STATHAM PLAYS A CROOK WITH A STRICT MORAL CODE — LIKE BEING FAITHFUL TO HIS GF PAGE 19

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WEEKEND, January 18-20, 2013

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Here we go again...

OneCity throwback.
TTC report threatens to reopen subway debate

Just when commuters thought the Scarborough subway-versus-LRT debate was settled, the issue that bitterly divided city council last year has resurfaced.

Metrolinx immediately dismissed the idea of revisiting the transit plan for Scarborough, but that didn't discourage one city councillor on the Toronto Transit Commission.

Glenn DeBaeremaeker (Ward 38, Scarborough Centre) said the latest TTC report gives him new confidence that there will be a subway underway in Scarborough within a decade.

He called the report fresh proof that Mayor Rob Ford's plan to build a subway on Sheppard "is a stupid idea."

But more important, he said, it suggests that the city can afford to build a subway in Scarborough by extending the Danforth line from Kennedy to Sheppard Ave. E. It would cost about $500 million more than converting the SRT to LRT, the Metrolinx plan the city and TTC signed off on late last year. That's the same amount of money the city has just approved for repairing the Gardiner Expressway.

Extending the Danforth subway was a cornerstone of the OneCity transit scheme that DeBaeremaeker and TTC chair Karen Stintz floated last year. It was rejected by a majority of city councillors, who chastised the pair for failing to consult before floating a $30-billion transit plan of their own.

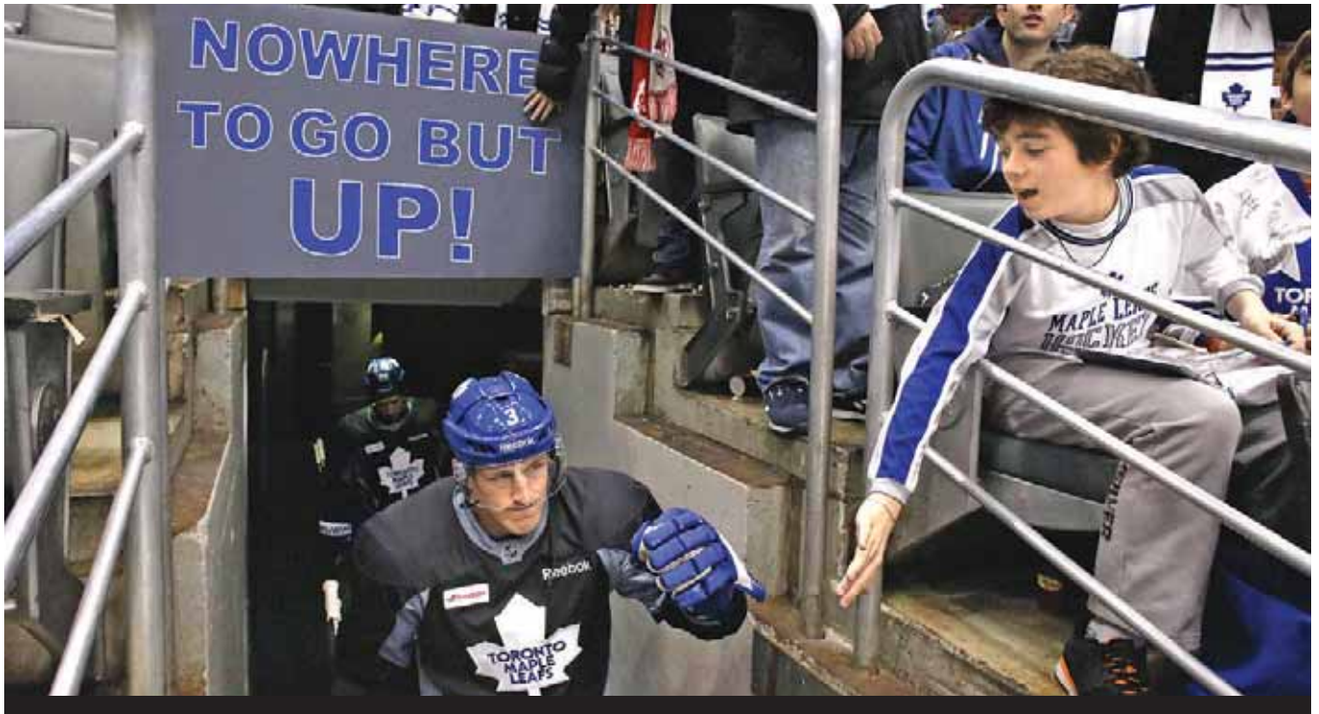
"I'm thrilled" by the TTC report, said DeBaeremaeker. "I am 100 per cent certain Scarborough is going to get a subway — the intelligent subway, the one that actually carries a lot of people, the one that costs the least amount of money."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Subway vs. LRT

A subway would add only 7.6 km of transit, compared with 9.9 km for light rail, according to the TTC report.

- It would run slightly faster than light rail and would have the capacity to carry 36 million people a year, 5 million more than LRT.
- The LRT would, however, put twice as many riders within walking distance of a station.



FISTFUL OF CONFIDENCE

Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf prepares to give a fan a greeting as he heads to the ice for an open training session at the Air Canada Centre on Thursday. After their poor showing last season, the Leafs, preparing for their opening game against Montreal on Saturday, have nowhere to go but up. See Metro's NHL preview on pages 28-33 for more. IMAGE ILLUSTRATION BY METRO; PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arsonist keeps bra-burning spirit alive

An inmate wants to sell her sketches of prison life so she can hire a human-rights lawyer to challenge the requirement that women wear bras in jail. One lawyer thinks she's got a good point PAGE 4

Jurors view dead teen's jail cell

Evidence about what guards could see of Ashley Smith's cell interior is expected to play a role at the inquest into her death PAGE 8

Reyes was icing on the cake for Jays

GM Alex Anthopoulos says he didn't go to Miami looking for a shortstop PAGE 27

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He's no quitter

Former budget chief would take the job back

Mike Del Grande TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The day after announcing he was quitting as budget chief, Coun. Mike Del Grande suggested he would take his job back if council "unanimously" asked for his return.

In a lunchtime television interview with CP24, Del Grande was asked if he'd consider taking the job back.

Del Grande told CP24, "If they had a vote and they unanimously said come back," that would "send me a different message, but the probabilities of that are next to none."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Also-ran talks politics

Smitherman to host town hall

Yes, George Smitherman is hosting a town hall discussion on the subject of whether Toronto's political leaders have "failed the city." No, that doesn't mean he is thinking about running for mayor in the near future. He won't. He promises.

"Yes," he said Thursday, "it's possible that I could return to active politics at some time. It's definitely not possible that I will run for mayor in a byelection or in the next general mayoral election. I've certainly ruled those things out."

Why?

"Um…"

Eight seconds of silence. Then this: "I guess more than anything else, I decided that in my life, I would not — I'm not interested in subjecting myself to one more minute in the presence of Rob Ford."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

School board. Deputy director to replace Spence

Donna Quan TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

She's well-respected, but not well-known.

Donna Quan, Toronto trustees' choice to lead Canada's largest school board through — and out of — an unprecedented crisis, is a veteran educator who has stayed out of the limelight for much of her 30-year career, almost the complete opposite of her predecessor Chris Spence.

But those who know her say Quan, who has served as deputy director of the Toronto District School Board for the past two years, is up to the task of helping the board rebuild and rebrand after a litany of troubles — the most recent, and explosive, being Spence's plagiarism scandal.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marriage of convenience. Seven people in T.O. area charged in alleged scheme

Canada Border Services Agency has charged seven people in the Toronto area in connection with an investigation into what it calls a "marriage of convenience" scheme.

The agency says the accused acted as go-betweens who arranged for Canadian citizens to marry and sponsor Chinese nationals.

The seven people face several counts under federal immigration law of counselling or aiding and abetting persons to commit misrepresentation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

$30-35K

A four-year investigation revealed the marriages were done to let the in-name-only spouses gain entry status in Canada — for a fee of $30,000 to $35,000 each.

U of T sex ed bash — it's on

'Epic student sex club adventure.' Organizers say they're hoping for a good turnout

After a "slightly overwhelming" few days of publicity, the University of Toronto Sexual Education Centre (SEC) is going ahead with its "Sexy Social" at Oasis Aqua Lounge, a club that bills itself as a water-themed adult playground.

SEC is an affiliated levy group of the U of T student union. Monday's event, organized for its sexual awareness week, was dubbed an "epic student sex club adventure" by organizers — and was also labelled as an orgy on a Reddit post in a University of Waterloo forum.

External education and outreach co-ordinator Dylan Tower told Torstar News Service on Monday that the party was not an orgy — just a safe introduction to Toronto's sex club scene. "It's very much, come and enjoy the space, there's no prodding or pushing in that direction," he said.

The Facebook page for the event now appears closed, but Tower said access has been limited because some "trolls" made some "uncomfortable comments." Otherwise, the response has been good, and organizers are hoping for a solid turnout on Monday.

"We have had an overwhelmingly positive response from many organizations within the GTA and around Canada. Most of the negative responses we have received have been on a personal level, and mostly drawn from misconceptions which we have been working round the clock to clear up," he wrote in an email to Torstar.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Did someone say 'orgy'?

After media attention increased, the Reddit user who posted "U of T is holding an orgy and you're invited," clarified that the term "orgy" was used "loosely and somewhat jokingly .... It's been said that this buzzword is what's shocking everyone and giving the event negative attention, but I think it's really the concept of the event that's causing the reaction — not that it was called an orgy."

This talk is way over my head

Isaiah Bacombe, 12, looks around as Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield talks about his guitar on the monitor in front of him on Thursday. Students at Chris Hadfield Elementary School in Milton talked live via a NASA link to Hadfield from space. The 800 students (some wearing homemade space suits) took part in the 20-minute question-and-answer session. Go to metronews.ca for full story. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Female inmate hopes to sell jailhouse art to fund legal costs

Prison life.
Jeannette Tossounian determined to challenge rule forcing women to wear bras in jail

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

A female inmate is hoping to sell her sketches of prison life in order to raise enough money to hire a human rights lawyer to challenge the requirement that women wear bras in jail.

Jeannette Tossounian wrote to Metro last November to complain about her treatment behind bars, which included being put into segregation or, as she put it, "thrown in the hole," for refusing to wear a bra.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services would not comment on Tossounian's allegations but confirmed that female inmates are required to wear bras.

Tossounian believes the famous and much-debated case of Gwen Jacobs will be a precedent that works in her favour.

"In the late '90s in the case of Gwen Jacobs, the great topless case from Guelph making it legal for women to go topless, the ruling was that a woman's chest can not be treated as a sexual object and must be treated equally to a man's chest in the eyes of the law," Tossounian wrote to Metro in a letter dated Jan. 12. "Since Vanier (Centre for Women) is a provincial institution and this is a provincial law, it was illegal for Vanier to punish me for not wearing a bra."

Tossounian said she is still refusing to wear a bra.

Using pencils, charcoal and a sketch pad she bought from the canteen, she has sketched jail-issue items, including the toothbrushes inmates use — tiny, so they can't be turned into a shank.

Anyone wishing to purchase her art can send a money order in her name to the Vanier Centre for Women, she said.

Tossounian was convicted of arson last year after she defended herself in a Niagara court, according to reporting by Niagara This Week.

The newspaper wrote that Tossounian, who had a previous conviction for arson, was sentenced to two years less a day for burning down her own art gallery while there was one tenant inside, who escaped.

Niagara Regional Police said an "alert citizen" witnessed a woman leaving the scene of the gallery fire carrying a gas container, and police arrested Tossounian a short distance away, according to Niagara This Week. The newspaper also reported on her background, saying the Niagara Parks Commission had recently asked her to complete one of several sculptures to be placed near the Horseshoe Falls. She was politically active, running unsuccessfully for Niagara Falls council in 2010 and as an independent in the October 2011 provincial election.

Quoted

"I hate soliciting money, but it seems like I can't get fair justice without it — which isn't fair."
Jeannette Tossounian

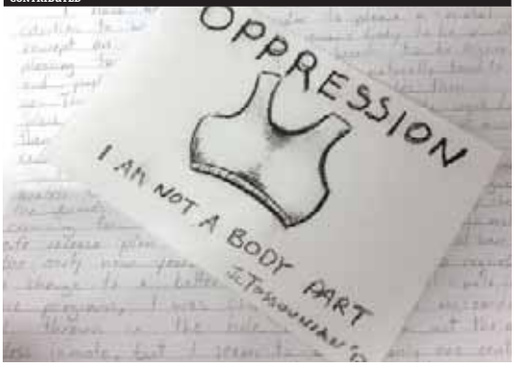
'Human rights grounds'

Legal opinion

Being forced to wear a bra could be a human rights violation, said Leslie Robertson, a lawyer with feminist legal practice Galldin Robertson.

"(It is) differential treatment based on sex — because I assume male inmates aren't made to wear bras," she said. "It sounds ridiculous, and I think she'd be quite successful challenging that on a human rights grounds."

While there are many reasons why an inmate would object to wearing a bra — for example, if they are a trans man in a woman's prison or if they have a disability that makes a bra uncomfortable — a woman wouldn't need a reason other than personal preference to object, said Robertson. "It's treating women differently than men, and I don't see a justifiable reason," she said. "Women should definitely have the right to choose what type of underwear they're wearing or whether or not to wear a bra."



Top: Artist and convicted arsonist Jeanette Tossounian sent this drawing and letter to Metro in January. Bottom: Tossounian sent an earlier set to Metro in November, detailing her objections to having to wear a bra in prison. CONTRIBUTED

Benefits of mentoring kids varies by gender: Study

Big Brothers and Big Sisters go through a rigorous screening process and are partnered up with their 'Littles' with aligning interests to ensure a good long-term match. PHOTO SUPPLIED

A new study released Tuesday found that mentoring benefits children in different ways, all based on their gender.

The five-year study by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (BBBSC) and Centre for Addition and Mental Health (CAMH) found that mentoring for girls could mean less negative behaviour and improved social skills; for boys, it could help reduce emotional problems, said CAMH's senior research scientist Dr. David DeWit.

"I think the big finding so far has been the gender difference," he said. "These are just initial findings, because its a very large complex study ... but what we found initially is that whether or not children benefited from mentoring in BBBSC programs depended largely on their gender."

Key findings from the first part of the study, which contains interviews and surveys tracking almost 1,000 children and teens, include:

• Girls in the study were four times less likely to bully, fight, lie or express anger than girls without a mentor.

• Boys with a mentor were three times less likely to suffer peer-pressure-related anxiety.

• Mentored boys are also two times less likely to develop negative behaviour like bullying, fighting, lying, cheating, losing their temper or expressing anger.

The findings, released this week to mark BBBSC's 100th anniversary, are just the first part of the study. President of BBBSC Bruce MacDonald said researchers across Canada will be looking at the data to figure out the best mentoring approaches and eventually use the information to tailor programs to individual needs.

He said the study confirms what they already knew: that mentoring could help change a child's life. The problem is, there aren't enough volunteers to fill the need, MacDonald said.

"We always have thousands of kids who are on waiting lists for volunteer mentors to come forward," he said. "We particularly have more boys on waiting lists than we do girls."

One of the reasons is that younger men often worry they'll become a surrogate father when they engage in these mentoring relationships, said MacDonald.

"That's not the role at all, so there's a mis-perception that's built up over the years that we're working to dispel," he said.

He's hoping more volunteers will come forth and become role models and a positive influence for children on the long waiting list.

PHOEBE HO/METRO

'Littles' pose with Police Chief Bill Blair at a launch on Thursday. Toronto's BBBSC is looking for 100 teams to sign up for the annual 'Bowl for Kids Sake' event on Feb. 9 as part of its 100-year anniversary. SUBMITTED

'Bowl for Kids Sake'

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada is undertaking a year-long public education campaign to help Canadians understand the importance and impact of youth mentoring.
- Special events will be hosted across Canada to pay tribute to past and present Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers.
- Celebrations will extend online through social media. People can give a 'big shout-out' to the mentors in their lives on thebigshoutout.ca.

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TTC'S MOST IMPORTANT ASSET IS ITS WORKFORCE

ANDY BYFORD
CEO
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

This week saw news of the arrests and dismissal of eight TTC Transit Enforcement Officers. While I can't comment on the specifics of the cases, I will say that the internal investigation that uncovered the offences, and the concurrent involvement of the Toronto Police Service, demonstrates that we are serious about driving up standards at the TTC — and that unprofessional (or worse) behaviour will not be tolerated.

That said, I want to declare my support for, and belief in, TTC staff who do an excellent job, day in, day out, to move 1.7 million daily customers on North America's third busiest transit system.

I see evidence of this good work every day, from those Transit Enforcement Officers who do a difficult job diligently and professionally to the frontline staff out there serving you, to those behind the scenes working in all weather conditions to maintain, operate and control our network.

A good example of this devotion to duty was New Year's Eve, one of our busiest days of the year. In addition to staff already booked to work, many other employees gave up their time to help on the system with crowd control and customer information. I was at Queen Station that night and I was hugely impressed by the turnout from staff members who were passionate about the need to provide good service and to get Torontonians safely to and from celebrations.

So while this week was a setback in our vision to run a transit system that makes Toronto proud, I take great heart from the fact that the vast majority of our employees do a great job, which is borne out by statistics that show we receive an increasing number of compliments about the sterling efforts of TTC employees.

WHY IS 32 AN IMPORTANT NUMBER?

Here's a question for commuters: What would you do with 32? That's 32 minutes extra in your day. Shop? Snooze? Share some extra time with your family and friends, perhaps?

The Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance's Regional Transportation campaign landed in Toronto's transit system this week. The station and vehicle posters are encouraging commuters to share their ideas on what they would do with the 32 minutes.

The campaign's goal is to prompt residents across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) to think about the impact of traffic gridlock on their quality of life, and to share what a better transportation system would mean to them. CivicAction aims to build public and decision-maker appreciation for the value of a better system, and the need for sustainable ways to pay for it.

"Transportation is at an all-time high as the top local issue that concerns people in the GTHA, and they have come to the conclusion that major action is in fact necessary to improve the quality of their own lives," says CivicAction Chair John Tory.

According to Metrolinx, 32 minutes is the difference between the average commute time if The Big Move is funded and built over the next 25 years (77 minutes), and if no comprehensive system is put in place (109 minutes).

Visit your32.com to learn more, and share what you would do with 32.

DID YOU KNOW?

The TTC carried an all-time record of 514,007,000 riders in 2012, an increase of 13,788,000 customers over its previous record total of 500,219,000 in 2011.

RECYCLE

Please keep the TTC litter-free. Recycle your reading materials in any station or platform receptacle.

EVENTS

JAN. 19:

- **Toronto Rock at Air Canada Centre:** Subway to Union Station. Expect minor delays due to ongoing construction at the station.

JAN. 19 & 20:

- **Monster Jam at Rogers Centre:** Subway to St Andrew Station, five-minute walk to Rogers Centre.

JAN. 20:

- **Toronto Raptors at Air Canada Centre:** Subway to Union Station. Expect minor delays due to ongoing construction at the station.

JAN. 21 & 24:

- **Toronto Maple Leafs at Air Canada Centre:** Subway to Union Station. Expect minor delays due to ongoing construction at the station.

SERVICE CHANGES

CONSTRUCTION:

- **510 Spadina** replacement buses diverting via Lake Shore, Rees, and Bremner, from 7 a.m. Jan. 19 to 6 a.m. Jan. 22, due to the construction of a city water main.
- **72A Pape** buses diverting via Church, Wellington, York, King, Church, and The Esplanade, servicing stops outside King and St Andrew Stations due to work related to the Union Station Second Platform and Concourse Improvements Project.
- **509 Harbourfront** streetcars replaced by buses until Spring. Eastbound diverting via Lake Shore Boulevard, westbound via Queens Quay.

For more information on these and other routes, please visit www.ttc.ca

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Welfare changes proposed

Tim Hudak. Tories propose to reward welfare recipients who work, clawback on those who don't

Ontario should claw back welfare for able-bodied people who've been collecting benefits for a long time to motivate them to find a job, Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said Thursday.

But the government should also reward welfare recipients who are working by allowing them to keep more of their income each month, the Opposition leader said.

Each person on social assistance should have a personalized plan that sets out certain activities they need to perform in order to receive their benefits, Hudak added.

"We want to make sure (to) reinforce in Ontario the dignity of a job," he said.

Hudak was mum on how long people would have to be on welfare before their benefits would start to decline, or how big a reduction they would face, saying he would seek advice from caseworkers, welfare recipients and others.

It's among 12 proposals the Tories are floating to fix what they're calling an outdated and inefficient system.

Other ideas include merging Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program, and introducing a debit card that could only be used to buy food. The Tories also suggested the province should encourage employers to hire people with disabilities by providing tax deductions for buying special equipment or technology.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario PC leader Tim Hudak says everyone on social assistance should have a personalized plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Five-year high. Homeless deaths total hits 34

Toronto's homeless deaths last year were the highest since 2007 and activists warn the number is likely to climb even higher in 2013.

Some 34 deaths of people without homes were recorded in 2012, eight more than the previous year.

The number of names on The Toronto Homeless Memorial outside the downtown Church of the Holy Trinity next to the Eaton Centre, now stands at 697.

The memorial records the names of homeless people known to have died in the city since 1985.

This week, Doug Johnson-Hatlem, a street pastor with Sanctuary Ministries of Toronto who tracks homeless deaths, added 13 names to the memorial following the release of shelter death records from the city's Hostel Services department.

The city recorded a total of 18 deaths in 2012 — all male — to add to 16 other deaths that were previously recorded by the informal group that tracks names for the memorial.

Activists fear there will be even more homeless deaths in 2013 because of a 2.9 per cent cut to emergency shelter beds in the city budget.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A homeless person braves extreme cold in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Missing evidence

Man who claims cop peed on him won't get video

The provincial privacy commissioner's office has upheld an earlier decision, saying that the video a disabled man claims would show a Toronto police officer "shaking" urine on him in a holding cell no longer exists.

Joseph Bhikram alleged last year, in a small-claims lawsuit against the Information and Privacy Commission of Ontario, that an officer used the toilet in his cell to urinate before he "shook the remaining urine" on Bhikram's neck and face.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Home-invasion probe

Five face kidnapping, robbery charges

Four men and a teenage boy face a spate of kidnapping and robbery charges following an alleged home invasion north of Toronto that ended with a dramatic police takedown.

Police arrested three of the suspects in a guns-drawn takedown Wednesday, moments after investigators say a home in Vaughan was invaded and a 34-year-old man inside abducted. They say the man was assaulted and tied up before being forced into the back of a vehicle that took off with police in pursuit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jurors view Ashley's cell

What could guards see? Food slot and viewing window may be main focus of hearing into troubled teen's last hours

Dr. John Carlisle, presiding coroner at the Ashley Smith inquest, arrives at the institution where the troubled teen died. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inquest jurors paced the beige-painted segregation cell Thursday where a troubled teen choked to death five years ago as security guards stood watching her.

The tour of the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, one of five federal prisons for women in Canada, aimed to offer the jury better insight into the place where Ashley Smith, 19, spent the last weeks of her life.

"This was Ashley's cell," declared assistant warden Tony Simoes.

A key difference between how the cell was when Smith died in it and how it is now are the two large windows in the heavy grey door that would have given guards a better view of the interior.

The old-style doors, still on the three adjacent cells, have only a small viewing window at about eye level and a "cuff port" or food slot closer to knee level.

Evidence about what guards could see of the cell interior is expected to play a role given that Smith frequently covered the interior surveillance camera and viewing window with toilet paper.

Bits of toilet paper are still visible on some of the cameras.

Dr. John Carlisle, presiding coroner, urged jurors to examine what would be visible if guards could only look through the food slot — about the size of a large mail slot.

"Just make observations," Carlisle advised the jurors.

Smith choked herself to death in her cell in October 2007, while guards, ordered not to intervene, looked on.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

School staffer's claim

Boy, 13, accused of sex attack

A 13-year-old boy is facing charges after Peterborough police allege a female staff member at an area school was choked and sexually assaulted.

Police say the woman told them she was alone in a classroom Wednesday with the boy when she was attacked.

He was charged with sexual assault and overcoming resistance to commit an indictable offence. He cannot be identified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jail sentence

Top court to hear condom case?

A Nova Scotia man convicted of sexual assault for poking holes in his girlfriend's condoms to get her pregnant is taking his appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Craig Jaret Hutchinson received an 18-month prison sentence in December 2011, and lost his appeal with the provincial Appeal Court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Terror-case Canadian gets 14-year jail term

He's cleared of most serious charge. Man with links to Toronto and Ottawa convicted of supporting group in Mumbai attacks

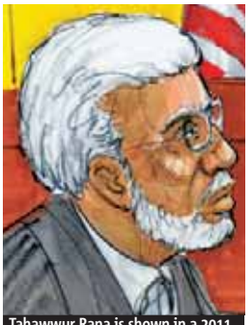
A Canadian businessman was sentenced to 14 years in prison on Thursday for providing material support to overseas terrorism.

It was alleged Tahawwur Rana supported a Pakistani group whose 2008 attacks on Mumbai, India, left more than 160 people dead.

The judge sentenced Rana in a Chicago court to the prison term followed by five years of supervised release.

Rana, a 52-year-old Pakistani-born Canadian, faced a maximum 30 years in prison.

Jurors in 2011 convicted him of providing support for the Pakistani group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and for supporting a never-carried-out plot to attack a Danish newspaper that printed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2005.



Tahawwur Rana is shown in a 2011 courtroom sketch. TOM GIANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cartoons angered many Muslims because pictures of the prophet are prohibited in Islam.

But jurors cleared Rana of the third and most serious charge of involvement in the three-day rampage in Mumbai, India's largest city, which has often been called India's 9-11.

The government's star witness at Rana's trial was admitted terrorist David Coleman Headley, who had pleaded guilty to laying the groundwork for the Mumbai attacks.

The American-Pakistani testified against his school friend Rana to avoid the death penalty and extradition.

He is scheduled to be sentenced in Chicago next week.

Headley spent five days on the witness stand — taking up more than half the trial — detailing how he allegedly worked for both the Pakistani intelligence agency known as the ISI and Lashkar.

Prosecutors also presented Rana's videotaped arrest statement to the FBI, during which he said he knew Headley had trained with Lashkar. They also played a September 2009 recorded phone conversation between the men.

Rana — who owned an immigration consulting firm in Toronto and a home in Ottawa — was accused of allowing Headley to open a branch of his Chicago-based immigration law business in Mumbai as a cover story and travel as a representative of the company in Denmark.

In court, a travel agent showed how Rana booked travel for Headley.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fracking fuss. Yoko Ono takes son Sean Lennon on a protest over drilling

Yoko Ono, Sean Lennon and actress Susan Sarandon spoke out against fracking — a drilling technique — during a tour of natural-gas drilling sites in northeastern Pennsylvania on Thursday.

The celebrities said the technique is a danger to air, water and human health.

Ono accused the gas industry of disregarding residents' welfare. "They care about making money," she said.

The celebs headed to rural Susquehanna County to see gas wells, compressor stations and other evidence of the Marcellus Shale drilling boom.

They also visited with residents who say they have been negatively impacted by drilling.

Fracking involves the high-pressure injection of millions of gallons of water, along with sand and chemical additives, deep underground to break apart shale rock and free the gas trapped inside it.

The industry and many federal and state officials say fracking is safe when it's done properly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mother and son: Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon chat as they head to drilling sites in Pennsylvania on Thursday. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Six-week protest

Queen rejects plea over Spence

Queen Elizabeth has rejected an appeal to intervene in chief Theresa Spence's liquids-only protest, but says she is taking note of concerns for the chief's health.

Spence is camped out on Victoria Island, in the Ottawa River, and says she will protest until the Governor General and the prime minister meet with all aboriginal chiefs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student loans

Lawsuits planned over missing info

The federal government is being sued over the loss of a hard drive containing information about half-a-million people who took out student loans.

Merchant Law Group is filing class-action lawsuits in Calgary and Winnipeg, and plans to file more in other parts of the country.

Ottawa says the device contained data on 583,000 Canada Student Loans Program borrowers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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German lawyer claims up to 16 objects were left inside patient after surgery

A lawyer in Germany claims surgeons left up to 16 objects in her client's body after an operation for prostate cancer. She is seeking over $100,000 US plus costs for the family of the patient, who has since died.

Surgical slips such as these are rare, but with millions of operations performed worldwide each year mistakes do sometimes occur.

According to Loyola University in Chicago, citing medical studies, some 1,500 patients in the United States have surgical objects accidentally left inside them after surgery each year. Most of the objects are sponges used to control patient bleeding during long operations. They can lead to pain, infections and other medical complications.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Notable cases

- **In March 2009,** a Kentucky jury awarded a woman $2.5 million after she needed surgery to remove a sponge left in her after a hysterectomy three years earlier. Part of her small intestine had to be removed.
- **In Feb. 2010,** doctors in the Czech Republic discovered a foot-long metal tube had been left inside a woman's abdomen five months after surgery. The clinic chief said four staff members had been punished.

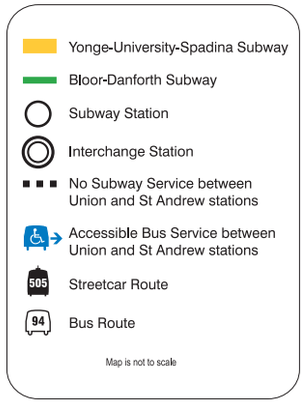
Weekend Subway Closure

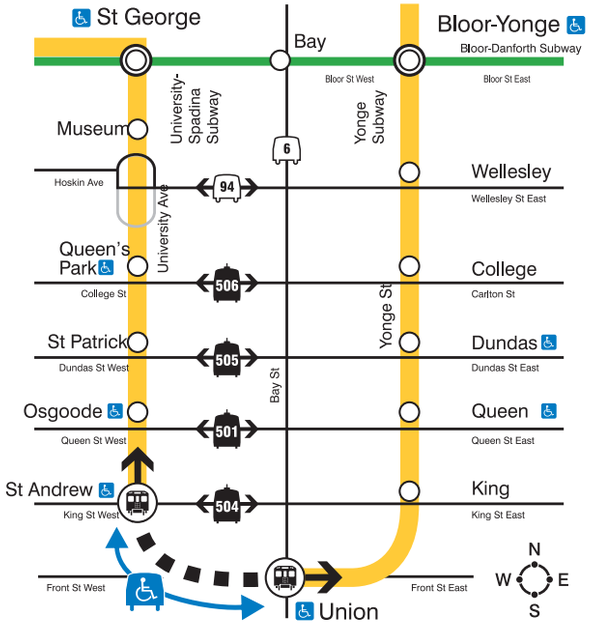
Union to St Andrew

No subway service due to Union Station Second Platform Project.

January 26 and January 27, 2013.

Customers will not be able to travel between Union and St Andrew stations. Customers can use alternate subway lines and streetcar routes while travelling. Regular subway service resumes on Monday, January 28.





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Linebacker Manti Te'o. JAMES BROSHER, SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Girlfriend hoax might be inside job

Manti Te'o. Linebacker still spoke of his dead online love even after he supposedly learned she never existed

Not once but twice after he supposedly discovered his online girlfriend of three years never even existed, Notre Dame All-American linebacker Manti Te'o perpetuated the heartbreaking story about her death.

An Associated Press review of news coverage found that the Heisman Trophy runner-up talked about his doomed love in a web interview on Dec. 8 and again in a newspaper interview published Dec. 11. He and the university said Wednesday that he learned on Dec. 6 that it was all a hoax.

On Thursday, a day after Te'o's inspiring story was exposed as a lie, Te'o and Notre Dame faced questions about whether he really was duped, as he claimed, or whether he and the university were complicit and misled the public, perhaps to improve his chances of winning the Heisman.

Te'o and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick said on Wednesday that the player was drawn into a virtual romance with one "Lennay Kekua" and was fooled into believing she died of leukemia in September. They said his only contact with her was via the Internet and telephone.

Te'o also lost his grandmother — for real — the same day his girlfriend supposedly died, and his role in leading Notre Dame to its best season in decades put him at the centre of college football's biggest feel-good story of the year.

Relying on info provided by Te'o's family, the South Bend Tribune reported in October that Te'o and Kekua first met in person in 2009 and that the two had also got together in Hawaii, where Te'o grew up.

Te'o never mentioned or denied a face-to-face meeting in comments reviewed by the Associated Press.

Notre Dame said Te'o found out that Kekua was not a real person through a phone call he received at an awards ceremony in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 6. He told Notre Dame coaches about the situation on Dec. 26.

On Wednesday, Swarbrick said Notre Dame did not go public with its findings sooner because it expected the Te'o family to do so first. But Deadspin.com broke the story that day.

Chicago Tribune columnist John Kass said the university's failure to go public sooner means "Notre Dame is complicit in the lie."

"The school fell in love with the ... myth," he wrote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questionable words

"I lost both my grandparents and my girlfriend to cancer. So I've really tried to go to children's hospitals."

Manti Te'o during an interview for WSBT.com on Dec. 8, two days after he said he learned his girlfriend wasn't real.

Clearing up weather lingo

If these people had a better understanding of weather-prediction jargon, perhaps they would have taken public transit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ DPA/ROLAND

Easy, breezy jargon. Because you shouldn't need a degree just to understand the forecast

Ever hit a mental whiteout pondering the difference between a winter-storm watch and winter-weather advisory?

The U.S. National Weather Service is looking at the idea that less is more when it comes to such jargon.

This winter, the federal forecasting agency is trying out simple, descriptive language to possibly replace its 14 watches, advisories and warnings for wintry weather — from ice storms to blizzards, wind chill to lake-effect snow.

"The purpose of this project is to use language that is self-evident, that everybody would immediately understand," said Eli Jacks, the forecaster leading the experiment.

The experiment began in December and runs through March 31 at 26 Weather Service offices covering Alaska, Oregon, the northern Great Plains, Michigan, New England, Appalachia and Oklahoma. A separate website for the project avoids confusing people who just want to look up the forecast.

The clear-and-simple approach could be carried over to heat waves, flooding, dangerous wind and other conditions, but that will depend on what the public has to say. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wa- wa- what're you saying?

"But then other people say, 'Well you know what, I've always been confused by 'watch' and 'warning' because they both start with 'wa.'

Forecaster Eli Jacks, about the reaction of supporters to his experiment that aims to make weather jargon less confusing.

San Francisco's new ban. Nudists say they're being stripped of their rights

A federal judge is set to consider San Francisco's new law that bans public nudity.

Public nudity activists are requesting that U.S. District Judge Edward Chen on Thursday block the law from going into effect on Feb. 1 while he considers their lawsuit seeking to invalidate the ordinance.

The activists argue that the ban violates their 1st Amendment freedom of speech because their nudity is a political statement.

They also argue the law violates equal protection rights because it exempts children younger than 5 and public nudity at certain events such as an annual street fair, the city's Gay Pride Parade and its Bay-to-Breakers foot race, which is noted for the wacky costumes — or lack thereof — of participants.

Attorneys representing the city counter that the ban is a matter of public health, safety and the "general welfare" of all residents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sheriff deputy rushes to cover a woman who stripped off her clothes in protest during a San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

British royalty

Princesses drive through red light

It was meant to be a Mini adventure; it nearly became a major embarrassment.

Two British royals on a mission to promote their country ran a red light near Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate.

With photographers and police in tow, driver Princess Eugenie and her older sister Princess Beatrice then took a swift right into the safety of the British Embassy compound.

At least the 22- and 24-year-old sisters didn't have to decide which side of the road to drive their Mini on. The entire 500-metre staged tour was along one-way streets.

Ignoring a red light can bring a fine of $264 US and a month's driving ban in Germany.

"Of course it's forbidden but so far we haven't had any reports," said Berlin police spokesman Carsten Mueller. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sub-size matters

Was the oven too cold for the bread to fully rise?

Subway is facing criticism after an Australian man posted a picture on the company's Facebook page of one of its sandwiches next to a tape measure.

The footlong subs are meant to be 12 inches, but the Australian's sandwich appears to be just 11 inches.

In a response, Subway said that the length of its sandwiches may vary slightly when its bread, which is baked at each Subway location, is not made to the chain's exact specifications. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Subway meal GETTY IMAGES

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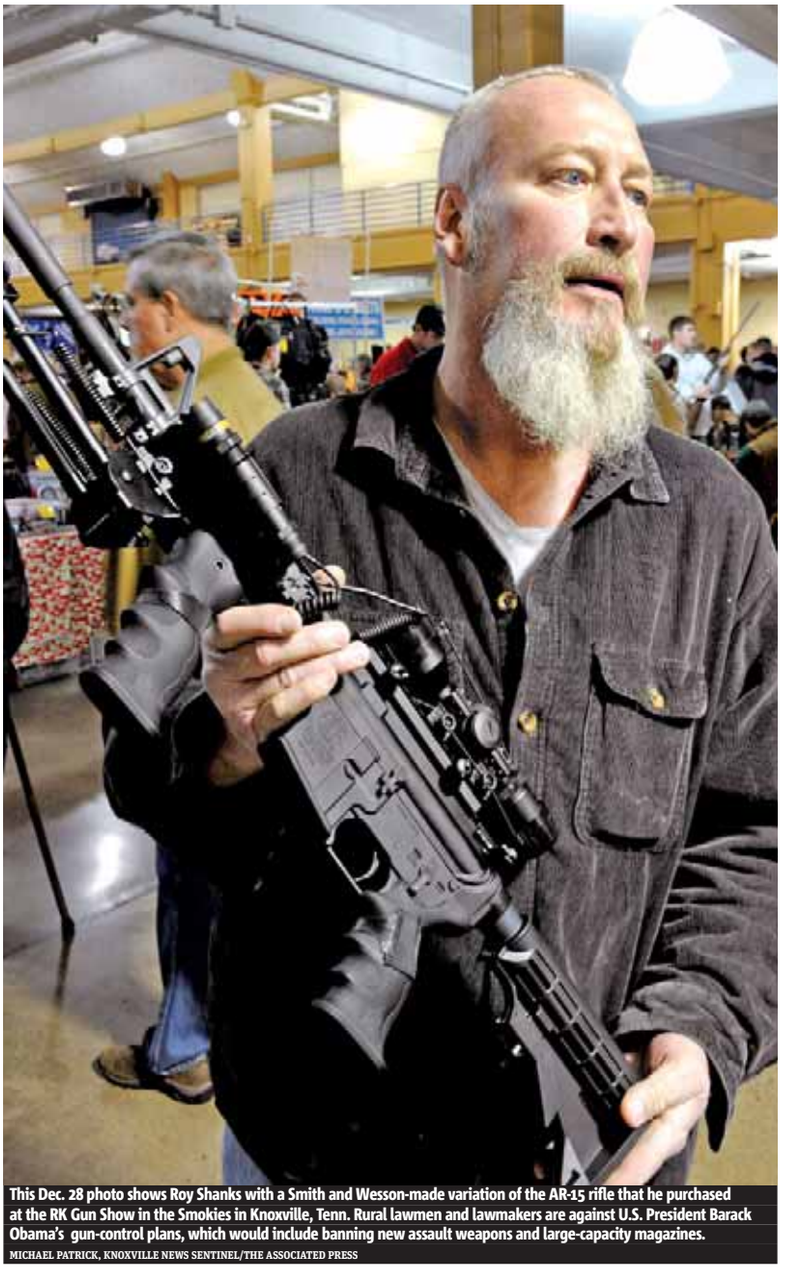

This Dec. 28 photo shows Roy Shanks with a Smith and Wesson-made variation of the AR-15 rifle that he purchased at the RK Gun Show in the Smokies in Knoxville, Tenn. Rural lawmen and lawmakers are against U.S. President Barack Obama's gun-control plans, which would include banning new assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.
MICHAEL PATRICK, KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rural U.S. pushes back against gun proposal

Hands off our guns. Lawmakers in Wyoming, Utah and Alaska proposing bills to pre-empt enforcement of new legislation

U.S. President Barack Obama's proposed ban on new assault weapons and large-capacity gun magazines struck a nerve among rural lawmen and lawmakers, many of whom vowed to ignore any restrictions.

"A lot of sheriffs are now standing up and saying, 'Follow the Constitution,'" said Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, whose territory covers the timbered mountains of Oregon.

Assault-rifle ban

"I will tell Mr. Obama and everybody else who wants to impose gun control in America that, whether you like it or not, it is against the law."
Richard Mack, former Arizona sheriff

But their actual powers to defy federal law are limited. And much of the impassioned rhetoric from the largely rural, Republican-leaning West and South amounts to political posturing until — and if — Congress acts on Obama's proposals to limit gun violence like last month's Connecticut school shooting.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said Wednesday it's unlikely an assault-weapons ban would actually pass the House of Representatives. Absent action by Congress, all that remains are 23 executive orders Obama announced that apply only to the federal government, not local or state law enforcement.

Gun advocates have seen Obama as an enemy despite his expression of support for the interpretation of the Second Amendment as a personal right to have guns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hostages freed, but death toll at Algerian gas plant unclear

Foreign captives. Kidnapping was one of the largest ever attempted by a militant group in North Africa

Statoil CEO Helge Lund, left, and director of foreign operations Lars Christian Bacher leave a meeting in Stavanger, Norway. Algerian forces raided a remote gas plant on Thursday in an attempt to free dozens of foreign hostages at the BP/Statoil/Sonatrach-run facility. KENT SKIBSTAD, NTB SCANPIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algerian special forces launched a rescue operation Thursday at a natural-gas plant in the Sahara Desert and freed foreign hostages held by al-Qaida-linked militants, but estimates for the number of dead varied wildly from four to dozens.

Militants claiming revenge for France's intervention against rebels in Mali seized the BP, Statoil and Sonatrach-owned Ain Amenas natural-gas complex on Wednesday, taking dozens of foreign workers hostage.

Algerian state television said Thursday that four captives, two Britons and two Filipinos, had died. But the militants said at least 35 hostages had died in the state's rescue attempt. There was no way to independently verify the toll in the remote location, 1,300 kilometres from Algiers.

The reports of high casualties have deeply disturbed foreign governments, prompting a number to criticize Algeria's operation. Britain's Foreign Office attempted to prepare the British public by saying, "We should be under no illusion that there will be some bad and distressing news to follow from this terrorist attack."

Islamists from the Masked Brigade, a Mali-based al-Qaida offshoot, said Algerian helicopters opened fire as the militants tried to leave the vast complex with their hostages. They claimed that 35 hostages and 15 militants died and only seven hostages survived.

Algeria's official news service, meanwhile, claimed that 600 local workers were freed in the raid and half of the foreigners being held were rescued. Many of those locals were reportedly released on Wednesday, however, by the militants themselves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Multinational terrorists

The Algerian government said it was forced to intervene due to the militants' stubbornness and their desire to escape with hostages.

- **Islamist militants.** Communications Minister Mohand Said Oubelaid said the "terrorists are multinational," coming from several different countries with the goal of "destabilizing Algeria, embroiling it in the Mali conflict and damaging its natural-gas infrastructure."

Special court

Gang-rape trial to be fast-tracked

An Indian magistrate on Thursday ordered the trial of five men accused in the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a moving bus to be shifted to a special fast-track court in New Delhi. The first hearing is to be held there on Monday.

Lawyers for the five have said police mistreated their clients, including beating them to force them to confess to the Dec. 16 crime. A sixth suspect in the attack claims to be a juvenile and his case is being handled separately. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aurora shooting. Families of victims have different takes on theatre reopening

The Colorado cinema where 12 people were killed and dozens injured in a shooting rampage nearly six months ago reopens Thursday with a remembrance ceremony and private screening for survivors — but for some Aurora victims, the pain is still too much, the idea too horrific.

Several families boycotted what they called a callous public-relations ploy by the theatre's owner, Cinemark. They claimed the Texas-based company — which has been publicly silent since the July 20 shooting — didn't ask them what should happen to the theatre.

Some victims said it's important to reclaim the theatre. Others called its reopening insensitive and refused an invitation to attend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Genuine gesture?

"Nobody is going to stop us from living our lives the way that we lived our lives before."
Tom Sullivan, father of victim Alex Sullivan

Reduce Belly Fat! Increase Energy!

Testosterone levels begin to diminish in men around age 30. In fact, by the time men are 60 years old, they typically produce 60% less testosterone than they did at age 20 (a man's sexual peak). Many men over the age of 35 may already be feeling the effects of lower testosterone including:

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Unfortunately at the same time testosterone is decreasing, estrogen levels are increasing, causing further muscle loss and gain in body fat, making it extremely difficult to maintain a healthy metabolism.

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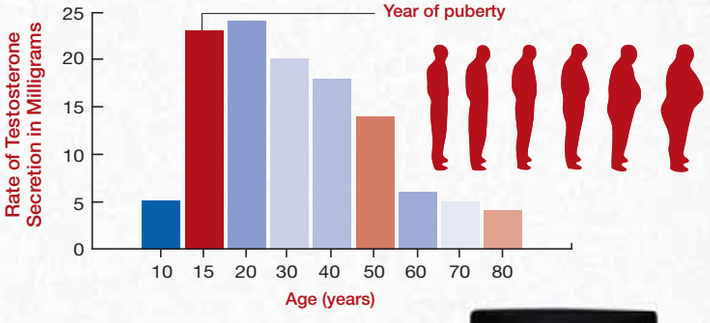

*"I really had to write you and tell you about the incredible success I am having with **Ultimate Male Energy** … my body looks like twenty years ago, my clothes fit great, my energy level when working out is great and my endurance so much better …thank you for this great, great product.* C.D., MB *"*

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Conflict of interest? Flaherty attempted to influence CRTC on radio licence, letter shows

The Conservative government would not say whether it stands by its own accountability rules for members of cabinet after Finance Minister Jim Flaherty was accused of breaching the guidelines.

Carl Vallée, a spokesman for Stephen Harper, declined to say Thursday whether the Prime Minister's Office continues to endorse the rules on ministerial responsibility.

The controversy was sparked by news Flaherty had urged the federal broadcast regulator to grant a radio licence to a company in his Ontario riding even though the rules — posted on Harper's website — forbid ministers from trying to influence the decisions of administrative tribunals.

In his March 30, 2012 letter to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, Flaherty praised Durham Radio Inc.'s ultimately unsuccessful bid to obtain a licence to operate a new FM station for the Toronto area.

The broadcaster, based in Flaherty's Whitby-Oshawa riding, was one of several applicants last year for the hotly contested spot on the FM dial. The company — which already has country and rock radio stations in Oshawa and Hamilton — was proposing an easy-listening outlet.

In a statement to The Canadian Press, which unearthed the letter, Flaherty said he would "continue to be a strong advocate for the people and community I represent. It is my job." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.45¢ (+0.04¢)

TSX 12,674.73 (+65.91)

OIL $95.49 US (+$1.25)

GOLD $1,690.80 US (+$7.60)

Natural gas: $3.49 (+5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,596.02 (+84.79)

Britain says neigh to eating horsemeat

'Horse burger' scandal. Tesco supermarket chain amps up damage control in wake of discovery that meat products contained up to 29% equine flesh

Putting the cart before the horse? An employee pushes shopping carts past the entrance to a Tesco Extra supermarket in New Malden, Surrey, England, in this 2009 photo. The Tesco chain has had to apologize to Britons after horsemeat was discovered in some of its burgers. GETTY IMAGES FILE

In Britain, a horse is a horse — not a main course. Tesco, the country's biggest supermarket chain, took out full-page newspaper ads Thursday to apologize for an unwanted ingredient in some of its hamburgers: horsemeat.

Ten million burgers have been taken off shop shelves after the revelation that beef products from three companies in Ireland and Britain contained horse DNA. Most had only small traces, but one burger of a brand sold by Tesco had meat content that was 29 per cent horse. The contrite grocer told customers that "we and our supplier have let you down and we apologize."

Reaction to the scandal in Britain goes beyond concerns about contaminated food. While people in some countries happily dine on equine flesh, in the land of Black Beauty and National Velvet, the idea fills many with horror.

Labour Party environment spokeswoman Mary Creagh reflected the feelings of many when she said Thursday that eating horsemeat is "strongly culturally taboo in the United Kingdom." She was echoing prohibitions in Western cultures that go back to 732 A.D., when Pope Gregory III declared horse-eating a pagan practice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Some people say, 'I have a horse. It'd be like eating my grandmother.' "

Paul Webb, director of Exotic Meats, a company in the English Midlands that sells products including horse burgers.

Provincial growth rates

Gap narrows between the West and the rest

Bank of Montreal says the gap between economic growth rates in Western Canada and the rest of the country appears to be narrowing. The resource sector continues to fuel growth in Western Canada, but the bank says it will be slower.

The bank suggests Alberta's growth in the energy sector is being tempered by a lack of pipeline capacity and B.C. has been held back by a softer housing market. By contrast, Ontario's economy is expected to gain momentum into 2014, helped by improvements in the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online ticketing

Ticketfly to enter Canadian market

Canadian concertgoers may soon notice there's a new online ticketing company in town aiming to compete with Ticketmaster.

The San Francisco-based Ticketfly announced Thursday that it's expanding into Canada and has reached deals with national event promoter Union Events and Toronto-based Collective Concerts to sell tickets online.

Ticketfly claims it will charge lower fees than Ticketmaster for online purchases and will encourage e-ticketing via Apple's Passbook format. The company has also acquired Calgary-based ticketing company Prime Box Office as part of its move north.

Bruce Morrison, former director of operations for Ticketmaster Canada, has been hired as the general manager for Ticketfly Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air travel. Federal regulator strikes down Porter policy

Porter Airlines can't refuse to compensate passengers for delayed flights or missed connections on the grounds that it's against airline policy, a federal regulator has ruled.

The policy — technically called a tariff — has been disallowed by the Canadian Transportation Agency. The decision means that passengers who miss their connections or are affected by a schedule change may seek compensation from the airline, said Gabor Lukacs, a passenger rights' advocate.

Porter said it was already compensating passengers "on a case-by-case basis" and has been doing so for years despite the wording in its tariffs.

"We've actually been operating under the premise for quite awhile that is essentially in line with the (transport agency) ruling," said Porter Airlines spokesperson Brad Cicero. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

20

Porter was ordered to change its tariff within 20 days.

BlackBerry bandwagon: Kitchener defends RIM-decorated light poles

The City of Kitchener is defending its decision to get behind BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion in the lead-up to the launch of its new smartphones.

In an article published by the Waterloo Region Record daily newspaper, the city says it hasn't sold out to corporate interests by making a temporary exception to local policies about corporate advertisements.

The concern involves a decision by Kitchener city leaders earlier this week that allows RIM to decorate light poles in the city's downtown core with banners to promote the new BlackBerry and thank the community for its support. The plan required local leaders to make an exception to long-standing rules about corporate advertising on city property.

Councillors in Kitchener gave the company the go-ahead in a near-unanimous vote earlier this week.

The city's article points out that only one council member voted against the exception. Coun. John Gazzola said that other corporations have asked to promote themselves on city property but have always been denied. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Without RIM, downtown Kitchener would not be experiencing its remarkable renaissance."

The City of Kitchener, in a local newspaper article, defending its decision to let Research in Motion hang banners downtown.

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Monday, February 18th 7-9 pm

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HAPPINESS IS A WARM CONFESSION

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

It was the best of weeks, it was the worst of weeks.
And it's not even over.

1 **Lance backpedals on Oprah.** Lance Armstrong pedals an epic two-part confession that he did in fact use performance-enhancing drugs to win a record seven Tour de France titles. If he doesn't end up resurrecting his reputation, at least he's resurrecting Oprah's ratings. Hey, it's not about the bike. Obviously, it never was.

2 **Idle No More.** You can say that again. Aboriginal people are mad as hell and they're not going to take it anymore. So they're barricading roads and bridges to make their point. But the spontaneous uprising seems to be taking more out of aboriginal leaders such as hunger-striker Theresa Spence and Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo than original-target Stephen Harper, whose Teflon coating remains intact.

3 **Idol again!?** Hard to believe, but the talent show that started it all, American Idol, is in its 12th season. Unfortunately, it seems to have descended into a feud between Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj, while the talent tries to get a few licks in edgewise. I never thought I'd say this, but what happened to the good old days, when professional A & R men identified The Next Big Thing?

4 **Happiness is a warm nutbar.** U.S. President Barack Obama unveils a package of gun-control measures, maintaining that weapons designed for a theatre of war have no place in a movie theatre, a reference to the mass shooting six months ago at a Colorado screening of The Dark Knight Rises. Gunslinger, er, Gov. Rick Perry of Texas angrily rejects any attempt to limit access to assault weapons and instead recommends that we "pray for help." It's worked so far …

5 **Madam, unhand that monkey.** In the inevitable court battle over who gets to keep Darwin the Ikea monkey, the people sheltering him have accused his erstwhile owner of, um, choking the monkey, hitting him with a wooden spoon, forcing him to live in a small crate and making him wear that ridiculous double-breasted shearling coat (OK, I added that last one). If God meant monkeys to go to Ikea, he would have supplied them with little Allen wrenches. Next case!

6 **Bad Dreamliners.** The entire fleet of Boeing 787s, the so-called Dreamliner, has been grounded as engineers try to figure out why the plane's batteries overheat. While they're at it, they should also figure out why I always have to sit between the crying baby and the 400-pound man.

7 **Happy birthday, Betty White.** If you're worried life has passed you by, consider Betty White. She turned 91 Thursday, but she's holding down a regular gig on Hot in Cleveland and this year launched Betty White's Off Their Rockers. Maybe you should Be Like Betty, and make today the first day of the rest of your life.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

HE DECLARES, THE WORLD WATCHES

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE INAUGURATION?

JAN. 19

U.S. President Barack Obama and his family participate in a National Day of Service.

JAN. 20

Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden are officially sworn into office at a private event at the White House.

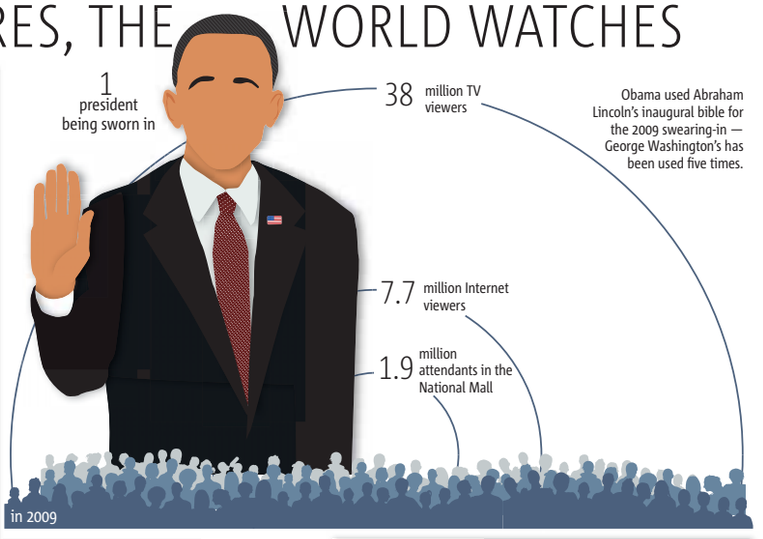
JAN. 21

- Obama, Biden and their families participate in a traditional prayer service at St. John's Church in front of the White House.
- Obama, Biden and their families ride to the Capitol. The public swearing-in ceremony takes place on a platform in front of the Capitol building.
- Biden is sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.
- Obama is sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts.
- Obama delivers his inaugural address.
- Obama and Biden participate in an inaugural lunch with members of Congress.
- Evening: Inaugural Balls. The president and vice-president attend with their wives.

$4.2 million
will be spent on preparing Capitol grounds for the swearing-in ceremony, mostly on the inaugural platform, bleachers and barricades.

SUNDAYS
Inauguration Day is always Jan. 20, but by law inaugurations are never held on Sundays. Since Jan. 20 falls on a Sunday this year, the oath is then given privately on Sunday and then publicly on Monday.

35
is the amount of words in the oath for the most powerful job in the world, the U.S. presidency.


1
president being sworn in
38 million TV viewers
Obama used Abraham Lincoln's inaugural bible for the 2009 swearing-in — George Washington's has been used five times.
7.7 million Internet viewers
1.9 million attendants in the National Mall
in 2009

THE PRESIDENT'S RIDE

Barack Obama will travel in his armour-plated Cadillac One limousine to Capitol Hill for his inauguration. But cars weren't always the preferred mode of transport:

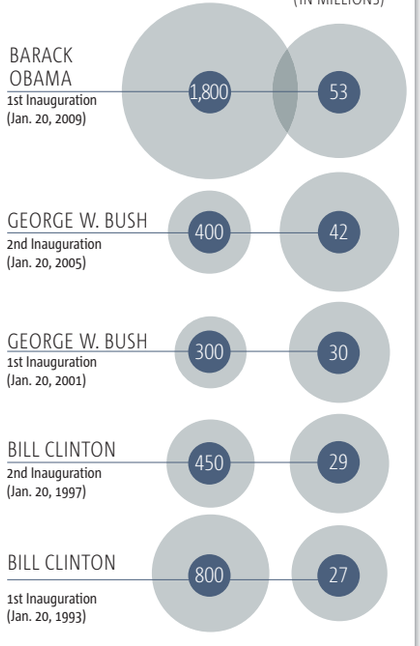
George Washington took a horse-drawn carriage to Federal Hall, New York City (April 30, 1789).

Thomas Jefferson (March 4, 1801) walked to his swearing-in from his lodgings less than 300 metres from Capitol Hill.

William Harrison (March 4, 1841) travelled to the Capitol by railroad from Virginia (an inaugural first).

Lyndon Johnson (Nov. 22, 1963) took his oath inside Air Force One, grounded at Dallas Love Field airport.

PAST INAUGURATIONS



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SOURCES: 2013PIC.ORG, CBS, CNN, FEC, JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, NIELSEN WIRE

Worth mentioning

Dear Abby advice columnist dies at 94

Pauline Friedman Phillips, who as Dear Abby dispensed snappy, sometimes saucy advice on love, marriage and meddling mothers-in-law to millions of newspaper readers around the world and opened the way for the likes of Dr. Ruth, Dr. Phil and Oprah, has died. She was 94.

Phillips died Wednesday in Minneapolis after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, said Gene Willis, a publicist for the Universal Uclick syndicate.

Pauline Friedman Phillips GETTY IMAGES

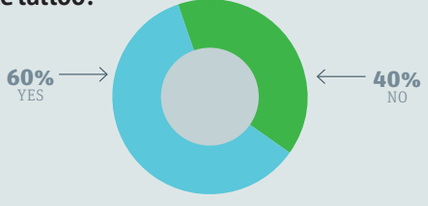
"My mother leaves very big high heels to fill with a legacy of compassion, commitment and positive social change," her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, who now writes the column, said in a statement.

Pauline Phillips wrote under the name Abigail Van Buren. Her column competed for decades with the advice of Ann Landers, written by her twin sister, Esther Friedman Lederer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Would you elect a politician who has a full face tattoo?



Twitter

@pali_s:
And it's snowing#winter no use to this anymore #mothernature #TDOT #Toronto

@MeezyVision:
All the (cool) guys in this city dress exactly the same. Toronto#Fashion#Boring

@LyveKaos:
After reading this Manti Teo story I feel like I just watched Inception.

@leafsownall:
Hahaha — "If you having girl problems I feel bad for you son Manti Teo has 99 problems but a girl ain't one."

@alexjbroad:
Hearing rumours#Leafs might try to sign Redden. Please hockey gods let me be wrong.

@JayEckert:
I hope the speculation of the#Leafs kicking the tired on Redden is not true. Happy to see the rebuild finally starting though. #tmltalk

metro

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Dame Maggie Smith stars in Quartet — a story of a once famous singing group now retired and living together. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Aging a little too well

Crowd pleaser. The Reel Guys agreed Quartet was a nice look at old age, but ultimately couldn't stomach the ending

Richard: Mark, this could have gone one of two ways. It could've been a depressing look at the difficulties of growing old, or it could have turned into one of those "loveable old coot" movies. Instead, like the recent The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, it treats its elderly characters like vibrant, real people, even though they use walkers and have lapses of memory. Medical conditions aside, emotionally they are as rich — if not richer — than 90 per cent of the characters we see in any Katherine Heigl romantic comedy. What did you think?

Mark: Richard, they are lovable old coots, or at least high-functioning geezers. It's an idyllic view of old age — everyone has money and talent, and only a little bit of dementia, a wisp of a stroke, or a slightly malfunctioning hip. If they showed what old age was really like, the movie would be unwatchable. The great thing about the movie is the cast — and what a cast! Could Billy Connolly be more charming? Tom Courtenay more noble? Maggie Smith more ... Maggie Smith? But the film falls down in the storytelling. There's just not enough there. If you're going to cast these legends of stage and screen, you need to give them more to do.

RC: It is predictable, just this side of twee and don't get me started about the unsatisfying ending. Luckily it's also a crowd pleaser due to the chemistry of the cast. I loved Billy Connolly's roguishness and the sense of real warmth that exists between all the main players. That Dustin Hoffman learned a thing or two about directing actors over the years.

Synopsis

The action centres around Beechham House, a luxurious retirement home for aging musicians. Three quarters of a once famous vocal quartet, Reginald (Tom Courtenay), Cissy (Pauline Collins), and Wilfred (Billy Connolly), live there quietly until their former diva, Jean (Dame Maggie Smith), arrives. Her presence stirs up old feelings from ex-husband Reggie but might also be the key to changing the fortunes of the cash-strapped retirement home.

Star ratings:

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

MB: The ending is horrible, one of the worst cheats in cinematic history. I was looking forward to those venerable actors tackling Verdi. But the scene I really enjoyed was Tom Courtenay teaching a class of visiting teenagers and trying to explain opera through comparisons with rap and hip-hop. But the entire plot revolves around the will-she-or-won't-she decision of Maggie Smith to join the quartet.

The script has her make that decision too blithely after resisting so vociferously. I just wasn't convinced. And she goes from imperious wit in her grand entrance to empathetic sensitivity way too quickly. The movie's not long. Maybe a few scenes were excised?

RC: It feels a bit like there was some unfortunate chopping, but I have to say overall the actors carried the day for me. Weak story and even weaker ending notwithstanding, it's a crowd pleaser.

MB: And it looks great. It was a pleasure spending 90 minutes in a perfectly groomed mansion in the English countryside. When I start to lose it, make me a reservation.

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Action

The Last Stand

Director. Kim Jee-Woon

Stars. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Johnny Knoxville

It may have been nearly a decade since Arnold Schwarzenegger has led a big-screen blockbuster, but in The Last Stand, the sexagenarian is proving he's still got some fight in him. The threadbare story of a small-town sheriff determined to detain a drug lord from escaping into Mexico certainly doesn't break any new ground in the action department, but for fans of the genre, it's a welcome and winking return from the former Governator.

STEVE GOW

Horror

Mama

Director. Andres Muschietti

Stars. Jessica Chastain, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

Tragic circumstances led to two small children (Megan Charpentier and Isabelle Nélisse) being abandoned for five years in a cabin in the woods. Rescued, they are adopted by their uncle (Game of Thrones's Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) and his girlfriend (Jessica Chastain) but the question remains, who is the mysterious Mama they keep talking about? Mama has some nice subtle creepy reveals, a vivid dream sequence and, of course, the ethereal Mama, who occasionally resembles a giant hairball on the floor, but is eerie nonetheless.

RICHARD CROUSE

Drama

On the Road

Director. Walter Salles

Stars. Garrett Hedlund, Kristen Stewart

It's taken 55 years for the classic novel On the Road to be interpreted to the big-screen. Sadly, perhaps that struggle was a sign it never should've been. Adapted by Brazilian director Walter Salles (The Motorcycle Diaries), the quintessential road movie documenting writer Sal Paradise and his spontaneous pal Dean Moriarty's travels can't capture the magical energy of Jack Kerouac's so-called "unfilmable" novel and winds up inert and unaffecting.

STEVE GOW

Documentary

The Bastard Sings The Sweetest Song

Director. Christy Garland

Stars. Paul "Muscle" Smith, Mary Smith

Mary Smith is watched over by her hawk-eyed son, Muscle, like a prisoner watched by her guard. The 75-year-old alcoholic has suffered too many drunken accidents, leading Muscle to confine her to his small property in Georgetown, Guyana. Director Christy Garland elicits moving confessions from the two; Mary quietly reveals her family's dark history and Muscle shares his aspirations to be accepted into the middle class. The film offers a tender, often poignant glimpse into one family's search for escape. **REGAN REID**

Credit where credit is due

"You know we went through a really rough time in the press and things like that back in the day. So I really felt like, 'Wow this is a great moment.'

"I am so glad for him. He deserves it. He made a great movie. He has made a couple of great movies."

Jennifer Lopez on her former "Bennifer" lover and Gigli co-star Ben Affleck winning the Golden Globe for the film Argo, which he directed.
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Parker hits theatres next Friday. HANDOUT

Statham strong-arms his way to the top of the action heap

Parker. Perpetually stubbly actor relishes his brawly roles — this time out he plays a crook with a heart of gold opposite JLo

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

With Parker, Jason Statham continues his bid to be the 21st century answer to his Expendables co-stars Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger, a purveyor of action films that can be big and loud but don't have to be dumb. His latest finds him playing a crafty crook with a surprisingly strict moral code — even when faced with the likes of Jennifer Lopez.

Do you consider this in the same vein as things like the Mechanic and the Italian Job, putting a modern spin on older action material?

You wouldn't be far wrong in saying that. Parker's a different sort of animal for me, though. He's a crook, he's a criminal, but there's something about him that makes you forgive what he's doing in some way, and I think there's an interesting aspect to that. You know, you're not supposed to like crooks or criminals. You know, he's devoted to his girlfriend. There's something about that as well. Crooks and criminals usually haven't got many morals. They do whatever they can for their ill-gotten gains... but this guy has a particular way of taking it, and he has a way of protecting what he cares about.

It's interesting, that girlfriend character, since you also have Jennifer Lopez in the movie, and people would assume, you two together on screen...

You'd expect something. When's it going to go off? I know, some people will go, "Oh, I don't believe it, it's stupid. How could he resist? It's f—ing Jennifer Lopez. What, is he blind? Is he stupid?" But (director) Taylor (Hackford) was insistent on keeping this guy true to himself and him having a strength in departments where other men were weak (laughs).

He's kind of an OCD criminal, particularly with one very detailed line he delivers before dispatching a bad guy.

Yes! "You were supposed to torch the hay bales behind the livestock pavilion!" Boom! I love that line. I'm glad you noticed that, I loved that line. When I read the screenplay, I was like, "Oh my God, I f—ing love this guy." Right to the end, he f—ing never let that f—er forget, you know?

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ENTERTAINMENT ONE

Five films to watch at Sundance

The annual Sundance Film Festival begins this weekend, with Hollywood's deal makers gathering in snowy Park City, Utah, to see what might go on to become the breakout hit of 2013. The toast of last year's festival, Beast of the Southern Wild, went on to earn four high-profile Academy Award nominations, including best picture. Here's our pick of what will get the most attention at this year's fest.

NED EHRBAR, MWN

Kill Your Darlings

John Krokidas' debut feature offers a dark glimpse into the early days of the Beat Generation and is a must-see at this year's festival, with an impressive young cast — Daniel Radcliffe, Ben Foster and Boardwalk Empire scene-stealer Jack Huston — taking on Ginsberg, Burroughs and Kerouac, respectively.

Don Jon's Addiction

Joseph Gordon-Levitt is something of a Sundance darling on his own (and he's even hosting the festival's award ceremony this year), so his directorial debut — about a lothario with an addiction to online porn — is instantly a must-see. Gordon-Levitt also stars, along with Scarlett Johansson and Julianne Moore.

Jobs

This one already has a distributor — and an April release date — and is the closing night film for the festival, but curiosity over seeing Ashton Kutcher's turn as Apple co-founder Steve Jobs is a huge factor here. Early buzz has been strong, suggesting Kutcher may be able to ump from the more lightweight fare he's known for. Book of Mormon star Josh Gad co-stars as Steve Wozniak.

The Spectacular Now

(500) Days of Summer writers Michael Weber and Scott Neustadter are back with this probably less sunny tale, based on Tim Tharp's novel, about a hard-partying high school senior played by Miles Teller who meets an outsider played by Shailene Woodley who changes his life. Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Kyle Chandler and Jennifer Jason Leigh also star.

The East

The Sound of My Voice team of director Zal Batmanglij and writer/star Brit Marling are back with this tense tale of an FBI agent infiltrating a group of anarchists out to get corporate fat-cats and manufacturers. Ellen Page and Alexander Skarsgard also star.

Mads Mikkelsen mines Danish history

A Royal Affair. Casino Royale actor takes on role of an ill-fated doctor who dallies with Denmark's queen

CHRIS ALEXANDER
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While North Americans recognize actor Mads Mikkelsen primarily for his role as James Bond's foil in Casino Royale, in his native Denmark, the actor is a legend and perhaps their biggest homegrown marquee draw. So it makes sense that a performer of his stature be cast as the man who sparked one of the country's most important historical chapters.

In the Oscar nominated period drama/thriller A Royal Affair, Mikkelsen plays Dr. Johann Struensee, a German born doctor living and working in late 1700's Denmark who, because of his forward social thinking, is covertly awarded the position of personal physician to the mad boy-King Christian IV. What follows is an astounding true story of political upheaval and eventually, great tragedy.

"When this film came out in Denmark, it was big," Mikkelsen told Metro of A Royal Affair, which graced TIFF in September and will be released in Canada on Jan. 25.

"The story told here is the story that changed the country. It was, after all, the enlightened period. This was where the republic of France was made 20 years later and in Denmark, we were close to doing it before them."

Fluidly directed by the original Girl with the Dragon Tattoo screenwriter Nicolaj Arcel, and with meticulously etched period detail, A Royal Affair is anything but a stodgy, Merchant-Ivory stuffed shirt ordeal. Rather it is as immediate and accessible as any contemporary story, and filled with plenty of sweaty sex, the latter a result of the dramatic arch, a doomed love affair between the lonely Queen (Alicia Viaknder) and Struensee, a tryst that seals both their fates.

"I think Struensee would have lasted longer if he didn't shag the Queen," Mikkelsen humorously notes of his big screen alter-ego's fatal mistake.

"He was doing things the people liked. But the Church wanted him out so they used what they had against him to bring him down."

And bring him down they did. The real Struensee, a hero, was tricked into a false confession and sent to the guillotine. Says Mikkelsen: "I went to the museum after we shot the film and it was very touching. I saw the scarf he was wearing when he was beheaded. I also saw some beautiful drawings that the king made of Struensee. The king was obsessed with Struensee, drawing him for years after, childish drawings like you'd see in a cartoon. It broke his heart when Struensee died and after that he went into oblivion."

A Royal Affair opens in theatres on Jan. 25. HANDOUT

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ADVANCING GENERICS

Three songs for the weekend

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

When I need a shot of something interesting, I always turn to local indie scenes. Here are three recent finds.

Sweet Child O' Mine/Tashaki Miyaki

A truly great song will be great no matter who chooses to interpret it. This version of the GnR hit by an L.A. dream pop band proves my point.

Boys in the Band/Guilty About Girls

Remember Vancouver's Pure? Guilty About Girls descended from them. My only complaint about this song is that it's not long enough.

Standing Still (The Girls I Call Don't Answer...)/Danger Bees

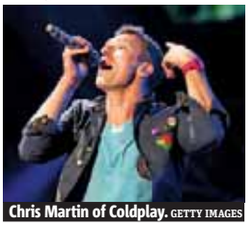
Nerdy five-piece indie-pop band from Toronto who record for the brilliantly-named Daycare Records: Babysitting Your Stupid Band.

Music. Gimme a fast car? Gimme Coldplay instead

There's something about Coldplay's music that's just so soothing, right? It's apparently more than that. It's also the safest to listen to when driving.

Next time you're in your car and you buckle your seat belt and switch on your Bluetooth to avoid chatting while driving, pop in some Coldplay to ensure ultimate safety.

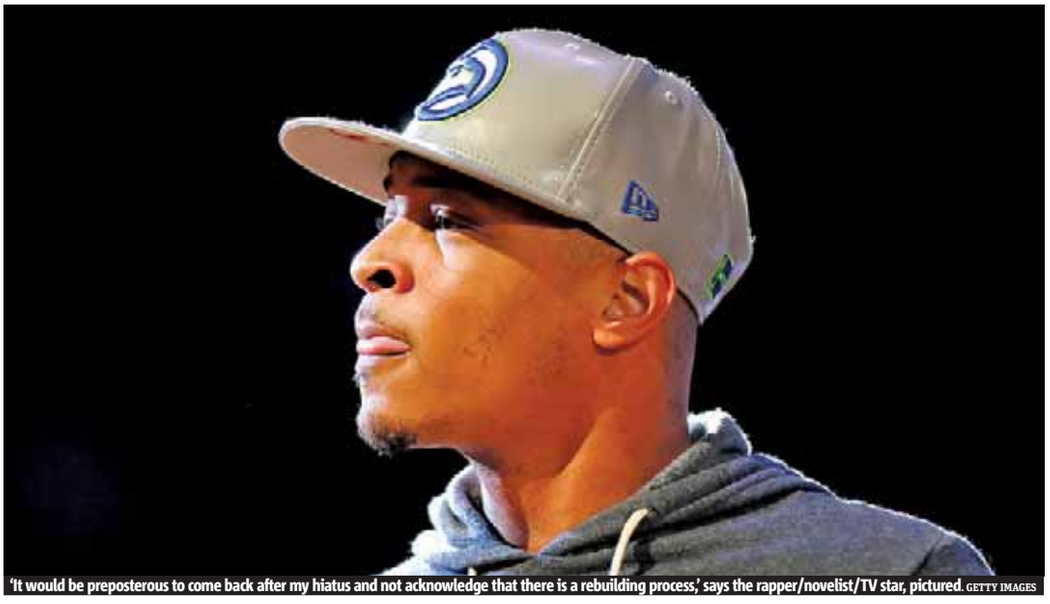
The British band's The Scientist landed on a list of "ultimate safe driving songs" compiled by Confused.com, the creator of driving app MotorMate.



Chris Martin of Coldplay. GETTY IMAGES

The optimum music volume for driving is 55 to 65 decibels, according to London Metropolitan University professor Simon Moore's conclusions.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS/MWN



'It would be preposterous to come back after my hiatus and not acknowledge that there is a rebuilding process,' says the rapper/novelist/TV star, pictured. GETTY IMAGES

Good fortune for the 'Trouble Man'

Heavy is the Head.
T.I. on returning to the entertainment industry with a vengeance

G. VALENTINO BALL
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While his run-ins with the law have been the fodder for many a tabloid over the past few years, hip-hop star T.I. has stayed focused on diversifying his work.

The Atlanta rapper has produced his VH1 reality show Family Hustle, written two books — Power & Beauty along with its sequel Trouble & Triumph — and through his Grand Hustle label introduced the world to B.o.B.

Now you can add the success of his latest album, Trouble Man: Heavy is the Head.

Is he worried that fans of his hard edged hip-hop will be turned off by how much he has broadened his horizons?

"It would be preposterous to come back after my hiatus and not acknowledge that there is a rebuilding process," he says. "I'm not the same guy, but I am cut from the same cloth. My morals, my standards are still the same. My actions and my locations might be a tad bit different but my mindset and my heart is still the same."

The Atlanta-born rapper returned to the charts last month when his eighth album hit No. 2 on Billboard, moving 179,000 units in the first week.

"The response exceeded my expectations. I'm ecstatic that the subject matter and body of work really connected with the audience," he says. "That's an unmatched feeling for an artist."

The next challenge for T.I. is bringing together the stars of his hometown for an all-star tour.

"As of right now I'm cultivating the relationships that will allow us to work together in that capacity," he says. "I'm making an attempt at putting together a domestic package that would allow us to go on tour: A package that will consist of myself, Trinidad James, I've spoken to Jeezy (and others). The new generation, the veterans and the OGs putting together a package that will really show the nation what this town has to offer."

Ripper Street is no Downton Abbey: This week on TV

Captain Homer Jackson (Adam Rothenbeg) from Ripper Street. HANDOUT

Dedicated fans of the mind-bending sci-fi serial Fringe will want to savour Friday's hotly anticipated finale — teasers suggest a catastrophic final battle as the crew faces the Observers. The two-hour swan song sees the team implement a plan as Olivia begins a dangerous journey into the unknown. **(City)**

The supernatural series Haven airs back-to-back new episodes Friday, culminating with its Season 3 finale, Thanks for the Memories. Here, Audrey is forced to face some hard truths and make a terrible decision that will determine the fate of the mysterious town of Haven. **(Showcase)**

Airing Saturday, the gruesome British drama Ripper Street is far from the world of Downton Abbey. The setting here is 19th century East London and the story chronicles an atmosphere of mayhem and brutality in the wake of Jack The Ripper's crimes. Matthew Macfadyen stars as Edmund Reid, the lead inspector charged with maintaining order on London's chaotic streets. Six months after the last Jack The Ripper killing, a fragile peace emerges. But in the premiere episode, a young woman is found brutally murdered with Ripper's hallmark signs. **(Space)**

Silver Linings Playbook star Jennifer Lawrence detours from the awards show circuit to host Saturday Night Live, perhaps the ultimate test of celebrity stature. No doubt there will be a Hunger Games skit in the offing for the Oscar-nominated actress. She's joined by musical guest The Lumineers. **(Global, NBC)**

Over on Girls, Hannah gets some unsolicited musical attention from heartbroken Adam and some not-so-great opinions on her writing from her new guy on Sunday. Elijah questions his sexuality and Marnie makes a career compromise when her curatorial dreams are crushed. **(HBO Canada)** THE CANADIAN PRESS

'I thought I'd end up on cable'

The following. Kevin Bacon talks career choices and ending up on network television

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The Following premieres Jan. 21 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CTV and CTV Two. HANDOUT

It's taken surprisingly long for Kevin Bacon to find his way to the lead role in a TV drama, but he's finally doing so with The Following, from Scream creator Kevin Williamson. And the biggest surprise, at least to Bacon, is that it's on network television.

"I honestly thought I'd end up on cable," says Bacon, whose wife, Kyra Sedgewick, has done well for herself in the cable world with The Closer. But Bacon doesn't mind guessing wrong about his own career.

What did the shows you ended up not doing not have that this one has?
Well, it was a couple of things. First off, I tried to develop two that didn't quite get there by the time this one came along. Sometimes they were amazing pilots and people would say to me, "Yeah, but is there really a show there?" And since I'm really not used to reading something with the eye on four years down the line or whatever, that was kind of a new thing to me. I was like, "Yeah, but it's a great script." And then other things had just strange kind of network or cable politics around them that they just didn't fall into place, and this one did. It's hard to know.

So this one has something in it that could carry on for years, you think?
Yeah, but what do I know? A lot of times you do these types of (press events) and people talk to you a lot about, "What was the choice that went into that?" That only really makes sense if the thing is successful and embraced. Then it becomes, "Oh, that was a great choice!" I mean, look how many f–ing movies I've done, and how many of them are hits? Two per cent? Five per cent? Not a lot of them. So I've made a lot of bad choices. I'm not someone who thinks too carefully about what the long-term implications are.

You mentioned you thought you'd end up on cable when you got to TV.
Well yeah, when I first approached the idea of doing a show, yeah, I thought cable. Well, first off I went from the idea that cable was just going to be Showtime or HBO. Premium, right? And then in the course of a year or so, that's when it started to morph. All of a sudden I'm like, "Holy s—, Breaking Bad is off the chain!" Look at shows that are on FX, you know. And The Closer. And now all of a sudden it's like, "Well what about Netflix?" You just do a show and there is no network. Things have changed and morphed so much.

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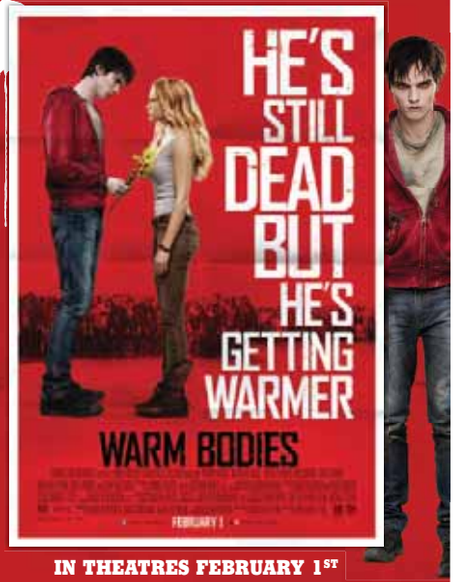

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TV. Jayson Blair a 'grown up kid' in The New Normal

STEPHEN ERAMO
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Jayson Blair GETTY IMAGES

The New Normal's Clay Clemmons likes women — really likes women. He is married, though, and, unfortunately, it is not enough for him to look but not touch.

"When we first meet my character, he is sleeping with another woman and gets caught," explains actor Jayson Blair, who plays Clay.

"Deep down, Clay is a very sweet and fun-loving type of guy who has been kind of put into this corner because at 15, he had a child with his high school sweetheart. When that happens I think you can go one of two ways. You either buckle down with your life, or it can completely alienate you. In Clay's world he's a grown-up kid who never got a chance to actually grow up, so he probably has more in common with his child than his wife.

"Clay honestly loves his wife and daughter and wants to do good by them. It's just too bad he has that little voice inside his head that gets him into trouble."

Fed up with her husband's cheating, Clay's wife Goldie (Georgia King) runs away with their little girl Shania (Bebe Wood) to start a new life. She meets Bryan (Andrew Rannells) and David (Justin Bartha) a happy and successful gay couple who want a child. Goldie agrees to be their surrogate, and, of course, her family, including Clay, cannot help but get involved.

"Bryan and David were quite apprehensive about Clay coming to town," explains Blair. "However, in the Halloween episode — which didn't air because of Hurricane Sandy — as well as the Thanksgiving episode, my character interacts quite a bit with these strangers. They're trying to accept Clay and welcome him into this new normal family.

"I really love the Halloween episode," adds the actor. "At one point you see how brokenhearted Clay is because of having neglected Shania. That scene was one of the most challenging as well as fun things that I've gotten to do so far this season."

Gérard Depardieu caused a stir when he bought a property in Belgium, a mile over the French border, in response to a proposed 75 per cent tax levied on his country's top earners. Later France's high court ruled that Francois Hollande's "super-tax" campaign promise for the super rich is unconstitutional, but the French government pledged to redraft the proposal. Russia, where this is an attractive 13 per cent flat tax on personal income, then threw their fur cap in the Depardieu relocation sweepstakes. President Vladimir Putin granted the middle-aged actor citizenship and handed him a passport over supper in Sochi.

MIKE DOJC
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These celebrity expats left for love, low taxes or sunshine

Sting

The former Police front man may have sung "Don't wanna be no millionaire, don't wanna own no mint, I don't wanna be no tax exile and I don't mind being skint," on Dead End Job, the b-side to Can't Stand Losing You. But when the billfolds started stacking high, he changed his tune, followed his accountant's advice and moved to Galway, Ireland, in 1980. Bandmate Andy Summers followed suit,

Sting

relocating to Kinsale. "It's a pain in the ass, but the alternative is 80 per cent (tax) and anyone that did that would be stupid," the guitarist admitted to the Record Mirror newspaper. British fame drain was hardly a new phenomenon by the time Sting decided to stray. In the mid-'60s, when the Beatles' Taxman came out, the top income tax rate in England was around 90 per cent and in the mid-'70s, when Rod Stewart and Tom Jones relocated to L.A. and David Bowie high tailed to Switzerland, the top rate was 83 per cent.

Johnny Depp

Despite being born in Kentucky and raised in Florida, Depp has always had a European sensibility. He has a predilection for puffing on Parisian cheroot cigarettes and dressing like a bohemian bon vivant. Depp moved to France with his former long-term amour Vanessa Paradis in the 1990s to raise their offspring away from the glare of Hollywood paparazzi and overzealous autograph hounds. So he scoured the Côte d'Azur for a sweet pad and plonked down a few million francs on a beautiful home in Plan-de-la-Tour near St. Tropez as well as a magnificent maison in Meudon, a suburb of Paris. This past summer after 14 years together the couple split and Depp also bid adieu to France. Perhaps he'll now spend more time soaking in the sun on Little Hall's Pond Cay, his private Bahamian island.

Johnny Depp

Shania Twain

Back when some of her best known songs like That Don't Impress Me Much and Man! I Feel Like a Woman! were still relatively daisy fresh singles, Twain and her then super producer hubby Mutt Lange moved to Switzerland, where their son Eja was born. They found sanctuary in Château de Sully, a massive and elegant 46-room castle on the shores of Lake Geneva. Eventually they'd sell the 18th century estate and take up residence in a relatively more down home villa in Corseaux. Close-by Montreux was also a favourite stomping ground of Freddie Mercury until his untimely passing, and Phil Collins lives not too far away in Féchy. Twain married Frédéric Thiébaud, a Swiss Nestlé executive in 2011, a couple years after they discovered that their exspouses were having an affair together.

Shania Twain. ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Ian Fleming

The man who concocted James Bond, the globetrotting superspy with the standing "shaken, not stirred" martini order, built Goldeneye, his residence in sunny Oracabessa Bay on the north coast of Jamaica after serving his country in the Second World War. The balmy locale features prominently in a trio of Bond adventures, Dr. No, Live and Let Die and The Man with the Golden Gun. His exotic hideaway is now a resort. Rent a lagoon fronting cottage to get a whiff of the lifestyle that spawned all 14 007 novels or splurge on the Fleming Villa ($5,500 to $8,500 a night depending on the season), a swanky five bedroom with the author's original writing desk in the master suite. While more of a snowbird than an expat per se, once a major transportation hub bears your name, consider adopted son status bestowed, even posthumously. The area airport was renamed Ian Fleming International in 2011.

Ian Fleming

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eone

Jennifer Lopez chasing a new lover named Oscar

Jennifer Lopez's career is doing just fine, but there's at least one item she still has her heart set on: an Oscar.

"I think everybody that has ever taken acting seriously would love to be recognized in that way," Lopez tells E! News. "Of course! Why not?"

She's even good about keeping her acceptance speech up to date, should the need for it arise.

"It changes every so often over the years," Lopez says. "Different people, different things."

Jennifer Lopez.

Russell Crowe

Crowe shoots down romantic rumours

Russell Crowe has taken to Twitter to refute a New York Post story that he and burlesque star Dita Von Teese are an item.

The paper reported that the pair had enjoyed "a romantic couple's massage" at the Four Seasons hotel in New York last month and have been getting flirty.

"Dita Von Teese is brave, smart, sweet and elegant. She is a friend of mine. Who wouldn't want friends like that? Friends, not lovers," Crowe tweeted after the item appeared.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Is Lohan working as a high-paid escort?

Lindsay Lohan has reportedly found a new way to help pay off her hefty debts. Her father, Michael Lohan, and other sources claim that the troubled actress is making money working as a high-class escort, according to Star magazine.

"She is getting paid to date rich men," Michael says, putting the blame squarely on his ex-wife, Dina Lohan. "Dina is pimping her out. It's disgusting."

But so far there are no allegations of Lindsay providing any services more intimate than acting as arm candy.

"The dates last for days, and the guys pay for everything — hotel, travel costs, food, whatever — as well as jewelry and other gifts," another source tells the magazine.

Nicole Kidman. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kidman not weirded out by peeing on Zac Efron

Nicole Kidman has been getting plenty of attention for her Golden-Globe-nominated role in the Paperboy thanks to an infamous scene in which she urinates on Zac Efron.

But Kidman doesn't get what the big deal is.

"I just don't find urination shocking. I think I peed in the beginning of Eyes Wide Shut, too. But then, I don't find a lot of things shocking. Violence is a lot more shocking than sex — sex is primal," she tells the Hollywood Reporter.

"I felt shy singing in Moulin Rouge, but peeing — no, not shy."

Twitter

@RebelWilson
I would never online date..unless it was for 'comedy research.'The other things I've done for 'comedy research' include fat camp, drinking..

@JoshRadnor
I would be a terrible matador.

@msleamichele
Treated myself to a little mani/pedi after work today:) Relaxing now and catching up on #topchef!

@AlbertBrooks
Bless me Oprah for I have sinned.

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Liquid Assets

Old and new school taste

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

French wines are a lot like David Bowie. Just when you think they've got nothing new to offer, they come out of nowhere with a brand new vibe based on their old school legacy.

While Bowie has his first album in a decade dropping in March, savvy wine lovers are rediscovering the value found across France — especially in its lesser known regions like the Côtes du Rhône. Though famous for Châteauneuf-du-Pape — its liquid love letter to the pope — many wine newbies are surprised to discover the Rhône Valley is the original home of the red syrah (a.k.a. shiraz) and grenache grape varieties.

Grenache dominates the southern portion of the valley, where the bright-fruited berry makes up the majority of the area's blends. Most are smooth, new worldly wines with great food appeal (think everything from hearty stews and lamb to a relaxed charcuterie platter).

Famille Perrin is a regional superstar and its grenache-led 2010 Côtes du Rhône Réserve Rouge ($15.95 to $17.99)

is rich and elegant with licorice and wild berry aromatics and a meaty, mouth-filling body of balanced black fruit.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Chicken and Waffles add soul to brunch

Quick eats. Good food doesn't have to take forever to prepare with this delicious recipe

Chicken and Waffles combines the best of the breakfast and dinner worlds in one soul food dish made famous by the Southern U.S.

There's even a whole chapter devoted to the meal in Fried Chicken: An American Story by John T. Edge. In it, he writes the dish goes back to the late 19th century, when Southern African-Americans, recently freed from slavery, began migrating to the northern United States.

According to Edge: "My guess is that it comes from the days when someone would go out in the morning and wring a chicken's neck and fry it for breakfast. Preparing a breakfast bread with whatever meat you have on the hoof, so to speak, comes out of the rural tradition."

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Two 4-oz containers sliced button mushrooms
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 4 frozen waffles
- Meat from a 2-lb rotisserie chicken, warmed and shredded

The fried chicken is usually served with a waffle that is covered in butter or syrup. This version, however, is more like the traditional Pennsylvania Dutch dish, which consists of a plain waffle with pulled, stewed chicken covered in gravy.

But it's even easier than that when you use store-bought waffles and rotisserie chicken.

No frozen waffles handy? You can serve this chicken and gravy over toasted slabs of sourdough bread too.

1. In skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the mushrooms, onion and garlic, then sauté until the mushrooms are browned and the pan is nearly dry, about 5 minutes.

2. Add the wine and stir to deglaze the pan. When the wine has evaporated, stir in the cream, then bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper, then set aside.

3. Toast the waffles according to package directions. Place one toasted waffle on each serving plate. Top with a heap of warmed, shredded chicken, then spoon ample amounts of mushroom gravy over it. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ WITH FILES FROM METRO**

NIAGARA'S TOP WINTER SPORT.
Shake off those winter blahs this weekend with an Icewine adventure in Niagara Wine Country. January is jam-packed with Icewine-themed activities and events.
Get your exclusive Icewine Discovery Pass Discount
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ONTARIO Yours to discover
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Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca.
To get even more info on these Notable happenings, make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/Jan18

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Just Opened: Global Food Bar

When Bazaar Global Food Bar closed on Mount Pleasant, patrons of this eclectic eatery were downtrodden. Luckily, it just switched spots, and has moved to a new home on the ever-burgeoning Baldwin Street, address 33, to be precise. Featuring a menu of — no shock — global goods, Global Food Bar presents the best from many of the cultures found in our greatly diverse city.

Just Opened: Junction Craft Brewing

In mid-December, Toronto was treated to another craft brewing company. Junction Craft Brewing is found in, not surprisingly, the Junction (at 90 Cawthra Avenue). Featuring a tap room to sample its brews and a retail store so you can take 'em home, Junction Craft Brewing is bringing more artisanal love to the beer scene in the city.

Art Battle
live competitive painting

Art Battle 42

The next Art Battle (No. 42) takes over the Great Hall (1087 Queen St. W.) on Tuesday. The event goes down like this: Painters create works of art in a frenzy-filled 20-minute competition while viewers watch and analyze the creative process. Once the round ends, the audience votes for its favourite and a silent auction means you can walk away with an original painting, done right before your eyes.

Canada's Official Super Bowl XLVII Party

On Sunday, Feb. 3 at Sound Academy (11 Polson Street), join hundreds of other fans in the ultimate Super Bowl XLVII Party. The most exciting and authentic way to watch Super Bowl XLVII — aside from actually going — will have NFL cheerleaders, players, personalities and prizes all on-hand next to a New Orleans-inspired spread for your viewing, partying and rumbling enjoyment. Touchdown!

FFWD

FFWD 2013

From Monday, Jan. 28 to Friday Feb. 1, Ad-Week FFWD takes over Toronto's creative scene. Held at various venues around the city, different panels, workshops, cocktail parties and the Canadian advertising awards (the Cassies) will make our metropolis feel like a live action Mad Men. It's five days of uninhibited creative glory, and it's the perfect excuse to get out, network and discover all that us Canadians bring to the extensive world of advertising.

Gatsby Gala

On Feb. 18 at the newly-renovated Arcadian Court and Loft (401 Bay St., 9th Floor), enter into a world of the past at the Gatsby Gala. This visually-charged evening will stun and awe guests with art deco inspired fashion and decor, a classy casino and free-flowing libations, all in support of Canada's National Ballet School.

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A flavour of one small screen kitchen

Anthony Bourdain.
Celebrity chef takes on judging full time on ABC's The Taste

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Anthony Bourdain GETTY

No stranger to television, celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain takes on judging full time alongside Nigella Lawson, Ludo Lefebvre and Brian Malarkey for The Taste, which pits home cooks against professional chefs in a contest where every dish is sampled blind in a single bite.

To get the conversation started about this latest entry in the cooking competition genre, we sat down to lunch with Bourdain for a meal of dishes inspired by the judges' recipes

It included Bourdain's coq au vin — which was fine, but not outstanding.

Though Bourdain didn't prepare it himself, so we can't really judge him on it.

How did the home cooks measure up against professional chefs?
The people that did well were aggressive with their seasoning. They were looking to make an impression and they were very forward with their flavours. We were fooled all the time with that. "Oh, this is a professional." No, it turned out. We were four very jaded palates, and I think that the cooks who figured that out were the ones who did well. These are people who've eaten a lot of food. Truffle oil is not going to work with these people. People who cooked looking for an emotional response, I think, were the ones who did well. I think we were all very emotionally involved in the progress of this show.

Were the challenges designed to take into account both types of contestants?
The challenges were all designed beforehand, and there were a couple that were geared more toward home cooks. A comfort food challenge is obviously in a zone where a home cook is just as likely to be as good at it as a professional. I'm not going to say which one, but there was one challenge where it was just a slaughter-fest, where everybody across the board just really had a hard time with it, and there was a lot of weeping and rending of garments. I'm talking about the judges (laughs).

What did you think of the team you coached?
I love my team. I would stand there that first day and think, "I don't want any of them to ever go home. I don't think I could bear it if any of them ever go home." Of course, even in the best case scenario at least three of them are going to have to. It's horrible. I hated it. I became the biggest wuss immediately. That was the biggest surprise to me, that I ended up giving a s—. Like, a lot ... in a really big way.

MLS

TFC gets two Canadians at draft

Toronto FC continued its remake at the MLS SuperDraft on Thursday, making a slew of moves to take Canadians Kyle Bekker and Emery Welshman while loading up on allocation money to help pad its salary cap.

The draft in Indianapolis had a distinctive Canadian flavour, with five Canucks going in the first 28 picks.

It was an eventful and profitable day for Toronto FC, which is rebuilding under new president and GM Kevin Payne after a dismal 5-21-8 season.

Payne said Toronto got the two players it wanted and set the stage for acquiring more talent by stockpiling allocation money.

"It really means that our salary cap is now just that much bigger than it would have been otherwise," Payne said.

After trading picks with Toronto on Wednesday, the New England Revolution opened the draft by calling Louisville defender Andrew Farrell's name.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kyle Bekker
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

NHL

Double-dose of Grapes on HNIC

The long-delayed return of Hockey Night in Canada will feature an expanded in-studio panel of analysts and an extra dose of Don Cherry commentary that will air during the later game out of the West. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Jose Reyes, left, smiles as general manager Alex Anthopoulos speaks at a press conference on Thursday in Toronto.
AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reyes was cherry on top in Jays deal

MLB. Toronto's first concern was improving starting pitching when team contacted Miami

He's a four-time all-star, a National League batting champion and Silver Slugger award winner and the New York Mets all-time leader in triples and stolen bases.

But Jose Reyes wasn't the focal point of the blockbuster 12-player trade that made him a Toronto Blue Jay in November.

On Thursday, the club officially unveiled its new star shortshop. However, when GM Alex Anthopoulos first called the Miami Marlins about making a deal, it initially involved pitchers Josh Johnson and Mark Buehrle.

"I've always talked about Jose Reyes in the office as one of my favourite players and I remember when we left our first meeting with the Marlins I had brought up Reyes at the end," Anthopoulos said. "That wasn't the game plan, I had to slide it in there and see if they wanted to talk about him.

"Once they said with the right players they would, we were going to try and find a way to get him."

After Toronto's disappointing 2012 campaign, Anthopoulos started calling Miami looking to shore up the starting rotation.

"Not that we went out looking for a shortstop, but Jose Reyes brings a lot to a team. I just threw his name in at the end and figured if we're going to make a big deal, let's try to find a way to get him in there."

The trade to Toronto surprised Reyes because he had received assurances from the Marlins that he wouldn't be moved. Ultimately, though, he was sent to the Jays less than a year after signing a six-year, $106-million US deal with Miami.

On Thursday, he certainly didn't look or sound like a player who was holding a grudge. Reyes sported a broad smile as he spoke to reporters and said he's anxious to begin a new chapter in his career with a new team in a new country.

"As a baseball player, you have to realize this is a business ... and that's going to happen sometimes," Reyes said.

"(In Toronto) the team we're going to put on the field is going to be good. I can't wait."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reyes' numbers

- A switch hitter, Jose Reyes batted .287 with Miami last year with 37 doubles, 12 triples, 11 home runs, 57 runs batted in and 40 stolen bases after claiming the 2011 National League batting title.
- Defensively, he's also a major upgrade in the infield over Yunel Escobar.

Armstrong comes clean to Oprah on TV

Lance Armstrong, right, celebrates winning bronze in the men's individual time trial at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, with gold-medallist Viacheslav Ekimov, centre, and silver-medallist Jan Ullrich. LAURENT REBOURS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

He did it. He finally admitted it. Lance Armstrong doped.

He was light on the details and didn't name names. He mused that he might not have been caught if not for his comeback in 2009. And he was certain his "fate was sealed" when longtime friend, training partner and trusted lieutenant George Hincapie, who was along for the ride on all seven of Armstrong's Tour de France wins, was forced to give him up to anti-doping authorities.

But right from the start and more than two dozen times during the first of a two-part interview Thursday night with Oprah Winfrey, the disgraced former cycling champion acknowledged what he had lied about repeatedly for years, and what had been one of the worst-kept secrets for the better part of a week: He was the ringleader of an elaborate doping scheme on a U.S. Postal Service team that swept him to the top of the podium at the Tour de France time after time.

"At the time it did not feel wrong?" Winfrey asked.

"No," Armstrong replied. "Scary."

"Did you feel bad about it?" she pressed him.

"No," he said. "Even scarier."

"Did you feel in any way that you were cheating?"

"No," Armstrong paused. "Scariest."

Whether his televised confession will help or hurt Armstrong's bruised reputation and his already-tenuous defence in at least two pending lawsuits, and possibly a third, remains to be seen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medal stripped

The International Olympic Committee sent a letter to Armstrong on Wednesday night asking him to return the bronze medal he won at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

4 SPORTS

Adjustment in mentality may not be enough for Leafs

Seeking a turnaround. With minimal roster changes following a 35-win season, it's hard to predict any improvement

Like the surprise in the Cracker Jack box, no one's too sure what you'll get with the Toronto Maple Leafs this season.

Fans just hope it's better than the year before. And the year before that. And the year before that.

But the signs aren't too promising. GM Brian Burke is gone. Roberto Luongo hasn't arrived. There have been minimal changes to the team that went 35-37-10 and finished 13th in the East last season.

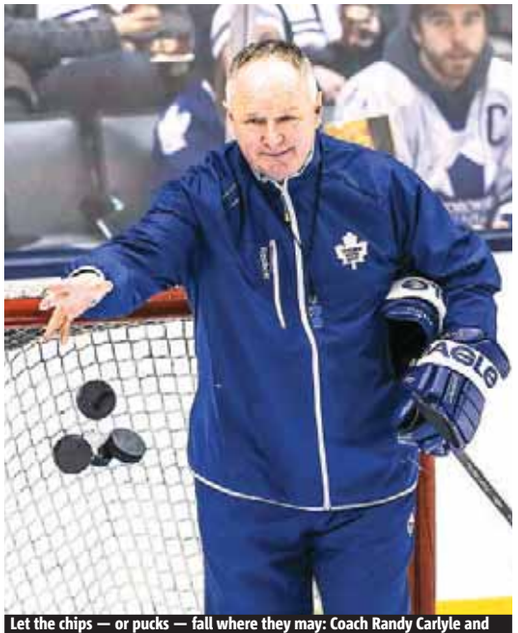
Toronto won just 10 of 33 games after the all-star break.

James van Riemsdyk came over from the Flyers in a June trade that reunited defenceman Luke Schenn with younger brother Brayden in Philadelphia. Matthew Lombardi was shipped to Phoenix and Tim Connolly, another veteran forward, placed on waivers.

"Well, that's what we're going to find out," captain Dion Phaneuf said when asked if he has a sense of how good the 2013 Leafs might be. "We're working towards getting off to a good start.

"I think we've been putting in a lot of good work here. I think our team looks good on the ice. The speed of our practices, the speed of (Wednesday's scrimmage) was an up-tempo style that we want to play.

"It's going to start really quick. Saturday night comes very fast. So we're looking forward to it."



Let the chips — or pucks — fall where they may: Coach Randy Carlyle and Leafs nation just hope that brings an improvement over recent seasons.
DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"The bottom line is we've got to — as a team — put a better product on the ice and play better as a group." Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf

Job 1 for head coach Randy Carlyle is fixing a porous defence. Toronto finished 29th in the league last season in goals against (264). Only Tampa (281) was worse.

Perhaps the good news is the once-proud franchise can only get better after a season that ended with a public apology from owners Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment.

"We have fallen short of everyone's expectations, and for that we are sorry," MLSE said in a newspaper ad. "We take full responsibility for how this team performs on the ice and we make no excuses."

And yet still Toronto fans come.

While the Florida Panthers offer $7-a-seat season tickets, the Leafs website offers a "Join the Waiting List" tab in its ticket section. The price of a discounted Panthers ticket probably won't get you a cold one at the Air Canada Centre.

While Carlyle looks to up the intensity and focus on the ice, he is also trying his best to change the culture of a team that hasn't made the playoffs since 2003-04.

Carlyle took over the slumping team on March 3 with 18 games left last season after Burke fired Ron Wilson in the midst of a 1-9-1 run.

"This is akin to an 18-wheeler going off a cliff," the then-GM said of the team's descent in the standings in announcing the coaching change.

Carlyle debuted in Montreal with a 3-1 win but the Leafs lost their next five games and the new coach finished with a 6-9-3 record.

The lockout has robbed Carlyle of valuable time to work with his team.

But the new regime is working hard to make changes.

Slogans such as "Mental Durability," "Make Today Count" and "Burn the Boats" adorn the Leafs dressing room at their practice facility.

Carlyle declined to detail the story behind "Burn the Boats," saying some things should remain in the dressing room.

"We believe that there are some things that we can always refer back to," Carlyle said. "And when you start trying to build a culture, we're not any different than anybody else, there are power-of-positive-thinking (tools), there are things that you try to do to bring the group back when adversity strikes."

But goalie James Reimer spilled the beans in an interview with TSN radio.

"He (Carlyle) had a story about people crossing the sea to take the treasure," said Reimer. "When they got there, they burned their boats so they either had to take their treasure or die. That's what 'Burn the Boats' means."

The weekend trip to the Bell Centre is a return to the scene of the crime, in terms of the finale to last year's disappointing season. Toronto's seventh straight campaign without a glimpse of the post-season ended with a 4-1 loss in Montreal.

"The bottom line is we've got to — as a team — put a better product on the ice and play better as a group," said Phaneuf.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

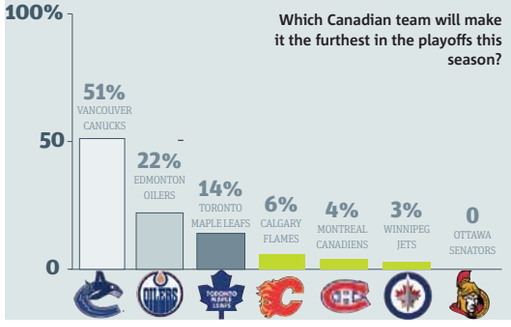
Phil Kessel produced a point per game (82) last season with 37 goals and 45 assists.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Drop the puck

- **Saturday.** Leafs at Canadiens, 7 p.m. (CBC).
- **Monday.** Sabres at Leafs, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday.** Leafs at Penguins, 7 p.m. (TSN).
- **Thursday.** Islanders at Leafs, 7 p.m.
- **Saturday.** Leafs at Rangers. 7 p.m. (CBC).

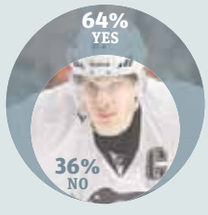
Metro readers' poll

Which Canadian team will make it the furthest in the playoffs this season?



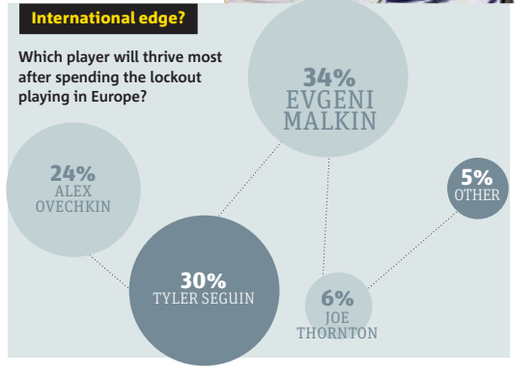
Head games

Will Sidney Crosby remain healthy for the full season?



International edge?

Which player will thrive most after spending the lockout playing in Europe?



HOCKEY IS BACK

60TH SEASON

2012-13 REGULAR SEASON BROADCAST SCHEDULE

SEASON'S FIRST BROADCAST!
SATURDAY, JAN. 19
3 pm ET Ottawa @ Winnipeg
7 pm ET Toronto @ Montreal
10 pm ET Anaheim @ Vancouver

SATURDAY, JAN. 26
7 pm ET Toronto @ New York Rangers
10 pm ET Edmonton @ Calgary

SATURDAY, FEB. 2
2 pm ET Buffalo @ Montreal
7 pm ET Boston @ Toronto
10 pm ET Chicago @ Calgary

SUNDAY, FEB. 3
2 pm ET Ottawa @ Montreal

SATURDAY, FEB. 9
SCOTIABANK HOCKEY DAY IN CANADA
12 pm ET *Celebrating the Game*
2 pm ET Edmonton @ Detroit
2 pm ET Winnipeg @ Ottawa
5 pm ET *Celebrating the Game* (Part2)
7 pm ET Toronto @ Montreal
10 pm ET Calgary @ Vancouver

FRIDAY, FEB. 15
7 pm ET Pittsburgh @ Winnipeg

SATURDAY, FEB. 16
7 pm ET Ottawa @ Toronto
7 pm ET Philadelphia @ Montreal
10 pm ET Colorado @ Edmonton

SATURDAY, FEB. 23
7 pm ET Toronto @ Ottawa
7 pm ET New York Rangers @ Montreal
10 pm ET Minnesota @ Calgary

SATURDAY, MAR. 2
3 pm ET Washington @ Winnipeg
7 pm ET Pittsburgh @ Montreal
10 pm ET Los Angeles @ Vancouver

SATURDAY, MAR. 9
7 pm ET Pittsburgh @ Toronto
7 pm ET Montreal @ Tampa Bay
10 pm ET Calgary @ Los Angeles

SATURDAY, MAR. 16
7 pm ET Winnipeg @ Toronto
7 pm ET Montreal @ New Jersey
10 pm ET Detroit @ Vancouver

FRIDAY, MAR. 22
7 pm ET Washington @ Winnipeg

SATURDAY, MAR. 23
7 pm ET Boston @ Toronto
7 pm ET Buffalo @ Montreal
10 pm ET St. Louis @ Edmonton

SATURDAY, MAR. 30
7 pm ET Toronto @ Ottawa
7 pm ET New York Rangers @ Montreal
10 pm ET Vancouver @ Edmonton

SATURDAY, APR. 6
3 pm ET Philadelphia @ Winnipeg
7 pm ET Toronto @ New Jersey
7 pm ET Boston @ Montreal
10 pm ET Calgary @ Vancouver

THURSDAY, APR. 11
7 pm ET Montreal @ Buffalo

SATURDAY, APR. 13
7 pm ET Montreal @ Toronto
10 pm ET Calgary @ Edmonton

SATURDAY, APR. 20
7 pm ET Toronto @ Ottawa
7 pm ET Washington @ Montreal
10 pm ET Detroit @ Vancouver

SATURDAY, APR. 27
7 pm ET Montreal @ Toronto
7 pm ET Philadelphia @ Ottawa
10 pm ET Vancouver @ Edmonton

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All games are also available live online at **CBCSports.ca**
*Schedule subject to change without notice

CBC

Northeast preview

With Tim Thomas taking a break from the crease, Boston's division crown might look ripe for the taking. But the Big Bad Bruins should still have enough firepower to hold off pushes from the comparatively young and inexperienced clubs making up the rest of the Northeast:
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boston Bruins

Last season: 49-29-4, 102 points, 2nd seed in East.

Goaltending is the question as the 2011 Cup winners start the season with veteran Tim Thomas in Colorado, taking a sabbatical from hockey. And backup Tuukka Rask may be bothered by a groin injury incurred while playing in the Czech Republic. The Bruins should still have enough to take the Northeast Division.

Prediction: Second in East.

Buffalo Sabres

Last season: 39-32-11, 89 points, 9th in East.

With Ryan Miller in goal and a hard-working team in front of him there's always a chance for a breakthrough. Derek Roy was dealt to Dallas for forward Steve Ott and defenceman Adam Pardy. The rest is mostly unchanged, with 73-point man Jason Pominville and Thomas Vanek still leading the attack. If prospect Mikhail Grigorenko makes the squad, it could be an offensive boost.

Prediction: 11th in East.

Montreal Canadiens

Last season: 31-35-16, 78 points, 15th in East.

Top defenceman Andrei Markov's oft-injured knee held up in the KHL during the lockout, which should help their anemic power play. Defence will be a strength in a short season as the Habs have eight ready to go.

Their top line of David Desharnais, Erik Cole and Max Pacioretty should get more support with captain Brian Gionta back from injury for the second unit.

Prediction: Ninth in East.

Ottawa Senators

Last season: 41-31-10, 92 points, 8th in East.

The emergence of Erik Karlsson as a top-level puck-moving defenceman and point man compensates for the uncertainty about the future of veteran Sergei Gonchar and the loss of Jared Cowan to hip surgery.

They have decent goaltending in Craig Anderson and enough scoring to give 40-year-old Daniel Alfredsson's swan song some style, if indeed he will ever choose to retire.

Prediction: Sixth in East.

Toronto Maple Leafs

Last season: 35-37-10, 80 points, 13th in East.

The post-Brian Burke era begins with big questions in goal and an already-thin defence likely to start without injured Jake Gardiner. The progression of the promising young talent in the organization could make a difference. Even fifth overall draft pick Morgan Reilly could start on defence. There's scoring up front with Joffrey Lupul and Phil Kessel.

Prediction: 14th in East.

RIVALRY GAMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER FOR LEAFS

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Adam Proteau
toronto@metronews.ca

Maple Leafs ownership stunned the hockey world last week when it chose to fire general manager Brian Burke and replace him with assistant GM Dave Nonis. But although the organization's long-term future certainly will be affected by the move, management's more pressing concern of making the playoffs for the first time since 2004 hasn't changed at all. However, it won't be easy.

Indeed, given the NHL's unbalanced 48-game schedule — which has all teams playing 18 games within their division and the remaining 30 games against teams from the other two divisions within their conference — the Leafs must improve drastically on their abysmal 9-14-1 record against the Northeast Division last season. To a degree, the schedule-maker has been good to Toronto this season, giving the Leafs five games apiece against the Ottawa Senators (who were just 9-12-3 in intra-division play last year) and Montreal Canadiens (10-8-6) and just four each against division champion Boston (19-4-1) and Buffalo (13-6-5). However, all those teams have as good a chance of making the playoffs as Toronto does — if not a better chance.

Do the Leafs have the components in place to end their playoff drought? If you looked at the team in the first half of the 2011-12 campaign, you'd quickly say yes. If you saw the same group of guys that utterly collapsed the rest of the way, you'd take a lot more time to say yes — and even then, you'd be hesitant to bet any great amount of money or pride on it. The reality is Toronto remains a team in transition, one that still doesn't have an elite young franchise-superstar player — at least at forward; 2012 first-round draft pick Morgan Rielly may get there as a defenceman and fellow blue-liner Jake Gardiner has looked phenomenal at the pro level — and isn't close to being a legitimate Stanley Cup threat. The Leafs' prospect cupboard improved under Burke, but it still was ranked only 20th in the league in quality in the most recent edition of THN's Future Watch. There's a ways to go.

Talent turmoil

The reality is Toronto remains a team in transition, one that still doesn't have an elite young franchise-superstar player.

Of course, that timeline for success could be shortened if Toronto completed the long-rumored acquisition of Canucks star goalie Roberto Luongo. The Leafs simply aren't experienced enough in net with James Reimer and Ben Scrivens, but with Luongo on board, their post-season chances would drastically improve.

Regardless, they've got to take care of business against the Sabres, Bruins, Habs and Sens. Failure in that department almost assuredly dooms the Buds to the draft lottery yet again.

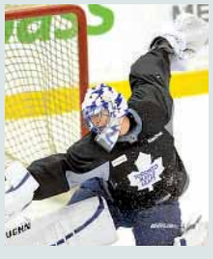
Three Leafs to watch

Nazem Kadri

He's only 22, but Kadri is at a crucial point in his Leafs career. Now in his third pro season, he's been solid for the AHL Marlies, yet must produce relatively quickly at the NHL level or he could be traded.

Leo Komarov

The 25-year-old Finnish centre played the past three years in Russia. He isn't big (five-foot-10, 187 pounds), but the Leafs are high on his competitiveness and he'll be given a good shot to succeed on the third or fourth line.



Ben Scrivens

The cerebral goalie has been a big reason why the Marlies have enjoyed success and he could play a notable role in a number of respects: as the starter if he wins the job from James Reimer, or as trade bait.

Only one winner. Less than a cup won't be enough

The New York Rangers made a big push in trading for Rick Nash to improve their chances of winning a championship for the first time since 1994.

"It's the right time for him to be here with us," Rangers coach John Tortorella said.

On the opposite side of the continent, the Vancouver Canucks can't wait to resume the franchise's quest for its first cup when the lockout-delayed season starts Saturday night at home against Anaheim.

The Chicago Blackhawks and Pittsburgh Penguins are also feeling a sense of urgency to win it all again.

And advancing one round in the playoffs isn't enough anymore for the Nashville Predators, who raised the stakes by matching a 14-year, $110-million contract to keep star defenceman Shea Weber.

Even though the Predators don't have the best defensive pair in the league anymore, with Ryan Suter joining fellow free agent Zach Parise in Minnesota, Nashville expects to try for more than just a third straight trip to the Western Conference semifinals.

"Without a doubt, the ultimate goal is the Stanley Cup," said Weber, who was wooed by the Philadelphia Flyers with a long and lucrative offer sheet as a restricted free agent last summer.

"And to do that, you have to make the post-season. Anything can happen, as we all witnessed with Los Angeles last year."

The Kings, seeded eighth, started by knocking off the top-seeded Canucks in the West and finished with a 6-1 rout of the New Jersey Devils in Game 6 of the final.

That's why Detroit Red Wings general manager Ken Holland, who is hoping to help the franchise extend its post-season streak, said it's not realistic for there to be a lot of pressure on any one team to win it all.

"The cup contenders will be the 16 teams that make the playoffs," Holland said while watching his team prepare on the ice earlier this week for a 48-game regular season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's wide open, and that's the beauty of the league."

Detroit Red Wings general manager Ken Holland

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Not all teams fearing jam-packed sked

Cram session. Teams relying on experience and familiarity to combat half season

The 48-game sprint of a hockey season hasn't even started, and NHL players are already winded.

There is very little in terms of a blueprint on how to prep for a lockout-shortened season that will be crammed into just 99 days after less than a week of training camp.

But ready or not, the puck will drop on Saturday and there is a small margin of error as every game now carries extra weight.

"It's not a grind. We want this," said Columbus Blue Jackets president of hockey operations John Davidson, a former NHL goalie. "We've been waiting months for this, to have this puck drop and hear the skates, bodies banging and guys with lots of energy.

"Coaches have had months and months and months to get ready. It's all good."

Teams aren't flying completely blind because this is the second time a long NHL lockout forced a season to be cut from 82 games to 48 per team. Back in 1995, the New Jersey Devils and Detroit Red Wings made the most of their opportunities and reached the Stanley Cup final.

Quoted

"I remember going into it, you just thought every game meant so much."

Sabres coach Lindy Ruff, remembering his time as a Panthers assistant coach during the 1994-95 lockout-shortened season.

"It feels like we just came out of an all-star break or something like that. We've got the same team," Phoenix Coyotes coach Dave Tippett said. "The guys understand what we're trying to do. We don't have to put a lot of time explaining terms or what we're going to do."

The Pittsburgh Penguins are trying to tap into the past to get a leg up now. Player development coach Bill Guerin was a member of those 1995 Devils, who got into the playoffs as the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference and rode the wave to a sweep of the Red Wings in the final.

"They didn't start well. They were starting under .500 their first segment," Penguins coach Dan Bylsma said. "They were a team that did have a lot of veteran experience, and we've talked to Billy about his experience and how the team came back and how they rotated players in and out of the lineup, how the goalie was played, what the talk in training camp was." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Guerin helped the Devils to a Stanley Cup win in the 1994-95 lockout-shortened season. Now Guerin is passing along that wisdom as player development coach of the Penguins. ROBERT LABERGE/ALLSPORT FILE

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Dual-threat dilemma for Falcons vs. Kaepernick

Conference championships. 49ers QB faces Falcons after he ran wild on Packers

Close call

- Atlanta survived its 30-28 divisional playoff win over Seattle last week despite Wilson's fourth-quarter dominance.
- The Falcons led 27-7 at the start of the quarter but trailed 28-27 before winning on Matt Bryant's late 49-yard field goal.

Michael Turner's trademark high-pitched laugh filled the Falcons' locker room.

Asked about San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick, Turner grinned Thursday and said, "I'm glad I'm not on defence."

Turner, the big running back, and the Falcons' offence want to hold the ball and limit Kaepernick's time on the field in Sunday's NFC championship game.

The Falcons have seen enough in Kaepernick's eight starts to respect the versatile quarterback with the long stride and strong right arm.

Kaepernick comes to Atlanta after running for 181 yards — an NFL record for a quarterback — with two touchdowns in last week's win over Green Bay. He also threw for 263 yards with two touchdowns. He became the third QB, after Otto Graham and Jay Cutler, to run and throw for at least two touchdowns in a post-season game.

The Falcons are impressed, even after facing such other dual-threat quarterbacks as Robert Griffin III, Cam Newton and Russell Wilson this season.

Linebacker Sean Weatherspoon says Kaepernick is unique.

"I think he's just a different guy altogether," Weatherspoon said. "He's a taller guy, obviously. I think he has a lot more speed. Russell is more of a quick guy. Colin is a faster guy."

Kaepernick's big game last week earned him the promise of more attention from the Falcons' defence.

"We definitely have to have somebody accounting for him," said Falcons safety Thomas DeCoud.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones runs past Seattle Seahawks cornerback Brandon Browner during the first half of their NFC divisional playoff football game Sunday. JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Home advantage

Patriots happy to be facing Ravens in Foxborough

Home sweet home. Sure works for the Patriots in the AFC title game.

New England gets a chance to extend its mastery in the final step to the Super Bowl on Sunday against Baltimore, the team the Patriots beat a year ago for the conference crown. That win made them 4-0 in home conference title games.

Although they were more vulnerable at home than usual during the 2012 regular season, losing to Arizona and San Francisco and having tight games with Buffalo and the Jets, the Patriots (13-4) are happy not to be heading to Baltimore (12-6) this weekend. Or anywhere else.

"Everything is on deck," Patriots defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. "You have to put everything you have into this game. If you lose you go home, plain and simple."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bounty scandal

LB Vilma let off the hook

New Orleans Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma's defamation lawsuit against NFL commissioner Roger Goodell in connection with the bounty case was dismissed by a federal judge on Thursday. U.S. District Judge Ginger Berrigan ruled in favour of Goodell's motion to dismiss Vilma's complaint, which was filed in May. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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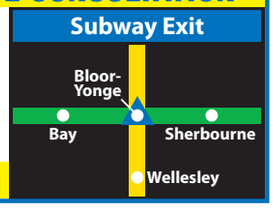

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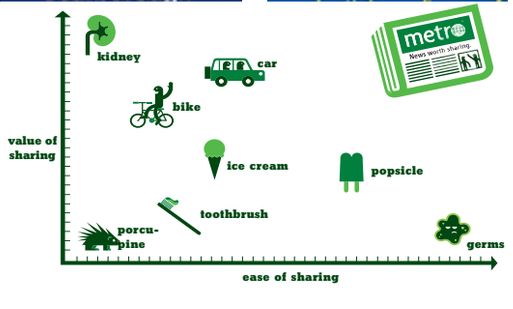

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Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Certain goals may seem to be out of your reach but they are not. The planets are urging you not just to aim high but to aim higher than ever before. All things are possible if you want them enough.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You seem reluctant to put your point of view across. Why is that? If you have something of value to say, you have not just a right but a responsibility to speak up. So speak up.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may appear as if someone you work or do business with has been cheating you but can you be sure? The planets warn you cannot trust your senses today, so err on the side of caution and don't make accusations.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You won't have any trouble getting others to back your ideas today but you may be in trouble later on if they don't work out the way you expected. For that reason alone make it clear there are no guarantees.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Some kind of habit is holding you back and it's time you got past it. Simply stopping won't do it — you've tried that before. The trick is to replace a bad habit by a good habit.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Avoid poking fun at people in positions of power, no matter how tempting it may be. Laughter is only the best medicine if it is the kind that everyone can share in. Anything else could be dangerous today.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't take what you are told at face value. Check the facts for yourself. What others say may sound convincing but more likely it's just self-serving. Do your homework and avoid making costly mistakes.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be resentful that changes of one sort or another have been forced on you but there is no point making a fuss. The best you can do is to go with the flow and not draw attention to yourself.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Resist the temptation to talk up the facts as others may see that as a form of deception. It may be easy enough to do but in the long-term you will regret it. Protect your reputation for honesty at all costs.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The planets warn that your powers of intuition are on the blink and not to be trusted, at least for the next 24 hours. Stick to what you know to be true and in other matters be exceptionally cautious.

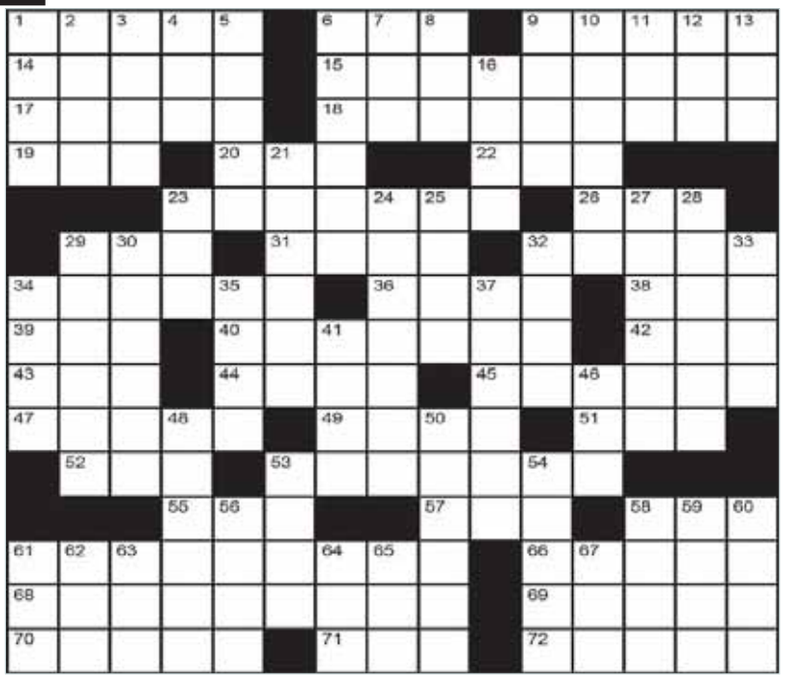
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to let your fears get out of hand over the next 24 hours. Take your mind off your worries by focusing on all the things you have to be thankful for. That should keep you busy for a while.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Those who think highly of you will help you out in any way they can today, but first you must ask. The Sun's link to communications planet Mercury means your wish is their command. So wish away.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

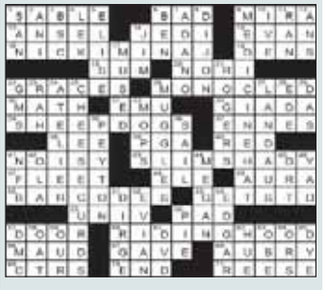
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Toronto __ Centre
6. Task
9. "__ la vista, baby." - The Terminator
14. CBC's "Republic of __"
15. BC's Revelstoke, for one: 2 wds.
17. Taylor Swift's "_ __ You Were Trouble"
18. On the costume of Bruce Wayne's alter ego: 2 wds.
19. 'Legal' suffix
20. Extinct bird
22. "The Simpsons" storekeeper
23. Reporter on "etalk", Traci __
26. Got [abbr.]
29. Jolt
31. Herring-like fish
32. Open court hearings
34. Formula
36. Endorse
38. Mr. Reed
39. __-locka, Florida
40. Ducks city
42. 'Serpent' suffix
43. Psychedelic†drug
44. Not is
45. __, Nova Scotia
47. Pretend
49. Destiny's Child hit: "Say My __"
51. Bronze Roman money
52. 'Part' add-on (Collaborator)
53. "Deuce __: Male Gigolo"
55. Green tropical fruit ...partially eaten here
57. Irish actor Stephen
58. Li'l accounting review
61. Green-haired Canadian icon: 3 wds.
66. Jennifer or Meg
68. The Glass __ (Tennessee Williams play)
69. US Supreme Court Justice Ms. Kagan
70. Fraternity letter
71. Wine aperitif
72. Singer/songwriter Sarah

Down
1. Ms. Falco
2. Says it's hunky-dory
3. Actress Ms. Daly
4. Grand Opry link
5. "Brand __ __" by Alicia Keys
6. German composer, in brief: _._. __ (b.1685 - d.1750)
7. Quebec-made cheese
8. Smidgen
9. Rope fiber
10. Bruce Springsteen album: 'Greetings from __ Park N.J.'
11. Pine-__
12. Green Day drummer, __ Cool
13. 24-hr. banker
16. Back
21. Mary-Kate and Ashley
23. Hosp. picture
24. Twitter's #
25. Garfield's pal
27. Chanteuse Ms. Dion
28. Pilotless aircrafts
29. Carly Rae __
30. Evangeline: A Tale of __ (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem)
32. Les Miz song: "__ Own": 2 wds.
33. Chop __
34. Massage for therapy
35. Rapper T-__
37. Ms. Bundchen
41. Years, in old Rome
46. Stealing bird
48. Alexander __ Bell
50. Sharpie product
53. Music systems company
54. Hall & __
56. "Luka" singer Suzanne
58. Helm position
59. Forearm bone
60. Ms. Cannon
61. First aid team [acronym]
62. Agnus __ (Mass prayer)
63. 1987 to 1994 'Star Trek' series, to fans
64. Mork's planet
65. Nero's 102
67. __-advised

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

9								1
	4	6				9	3	
			5	1	9			
		2	9	4	3	1		
7	3						2	9
		9	2	8	7	3		
			7	2	4			
	8	7				5	4	
6								2

Yesterday's Sudoku

Today
-1°/-4°
Flurries
40%

Saturday
4°/-8°
Cloudy

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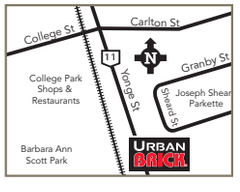

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